Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1984

Michael J. Rogers and the Rarities Committee with comments by A. R. Dean and K. E. Vinicombe

This is our twenty-seventh annual report. The work of the Rarities Committee has again been sponsored by ZEISS WEST GERMANY. We greatly welcome this financial assistance, which enables us to cope with the expense of processing and publishing the large volume of records, and to include photographs and drawings of some of the rarities in this report.

Committee membership is listed on the inside front cover each month, and on the back of the title page in each volume. Other matters relating to its work during the year have been published already (Brit. Birds 78: 471-473). The Committee has dealt with 780 records for 1984, 84% of which have been accepted. About 294 records for 1984 and earlier years are still under consideration.

Records should be sent to the Secretary, Michael J. Rogers, preferably via the appropriate county or regional recorder. A copy of the list of species considered by the Committee, copies of the Rarities Committee Record Form (which should be used, or its format followed, when submitting reports), and a recently-updated fact sheet which sets out the constitution and aims of the Committee and describes the procedures followed when considering records, can be obtained from the Secretary (please enclose SAE).

Acknowledgments

As ever, we express our gratitude for the co-operation of observers, regional and county recorders, and bird observatories, without which this report would not be so complete and accurate. We are again grateful to the Irish Rare Birds Committee (formerly known as the Irish Records Panel) and the Northern Ireland Bird Records Committee for permission to include their accepted records, and to their respective secretaries, Kieran Grace and Mrs P. M. Vizard, for supplying details. Trevor Copp has liaised over Channel Islands rarity records, which are now dealt with by the Rarities Committee, and we are grateful for his co-operation. Details of accepted Channel Islands records are included in the species comments, but not in the running totals which are for the geographical unit of Britain and Ireland.

The Committee is indebted to many individuals and organisations for
assistance during the past year. A. R. Dean and K. E. Vinicombe have shared the compilation of the running species-totals and have written the species comments (non-passerines by KEV and passerines by ARD); the BTO, the NCC, the RSPB and the British Museum (Natural History), Tring, have liaised over various matters; and the following have been consulted for advice over particular records: Steen Christensen, P. R. Colston, Chris Corben, W. F. Curtis, Jon Dunn, Dave Eades, Lars Jonsson, Kenn Kaufman, Dr A. G. Knox, Lasse J. Laine, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, R. F. Porter, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Lars Svensson and Claudia Wilds.

Our report is again enhanced by the inclusion of photographs and sketches of rarities. We thank the observers concerned and all those who now routinely submit such valuable evidence with their descriptions, thereby greatly assisting the assessment process. PJG

Pre-1984 records still under consideration
Pre-1984 records with which the Committee is currently involved include several Little Shearwaters *Puffinus assimilis*, two Madeiran Petrels *Oceanodroma castro*, the party of American Wigeons *Anas americana* at the Hayle Estuary (Cornwall) in 1981, Semipalmated/Western Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla/mauri* at Felixstowe (Suffolk) in 1982 and 1983, two Long-toed Stints *Calidris subminuta*, several South Polar Skuas *Stercorarius maccormicki*, two Lesser Crested Terns *Sterna bengalensis*, several Eagle Owls *Bubo bubo*, Blyth’s Pipit *Anthus godlewskii* at Portland (Dorset) in 1983, three Northern Mockingbirds *Mimus polyglottos*, two Short-toed Treecreepers *Certhia brachydactyla*, several Arctic Redpolls *Carduelis hornemanni*, two Pine Buntings *Emberiza leucocephalos*, and Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* at Sandbach (Cheshire) in 1970.

The Committee is also engaged upon reviews of both past and pending records of black-headed Yellow Wagtails *Motacilla flava jeldegg*, Citrine Wagtails *M. citreola* and Two-barred Crossbills *Loxia leucoptera*.

Pre-1984 records still being investigated by the BOU Records Committee include White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* at Bough Beech Reservoir (Kent) in 1979, Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* at Dunwich (Suffolk) and Old Hall Marshes (Essex) in 1981, Grey-rumped Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes* at Dyfi Estuary (Dyfed/Gwynedd) in 1981, Cliff Swallow *Hirundo pyrrhonota* on St Agnes and St Mary’s (Scilly) in 1983, White-throated Robin *Irania gutturalis* on the Calf of Man (Man) in 1983, Varied Thrush *Zoothera naevia* at Nanquidno (Cornwall) in 1982, and Yellow-browed Bunting *Emberiza chrysophrys* at Holkham (Norfolk) in 1975.

PJG

Systematic list of accepted records
The principles and procedures followed in considering records were explained in the 1958 report (*Brit. Birds* 53: 155-158). The systematic list is set out in the same way as in the 1983 report (77: 506-562). The following points show the basis on which the list has been compiled.

(i) The details included for each record are (1) county; (2) locality; (3) number of birds if more than one, and age and sex if known (in the case of spring and summer records,
however, the age is normally given only where the bird concerned was not in adult plumage); (4) if trapped or found dead and where specimen is stored, if known; (5) date(s); and (6) observer(s) up to three in number, in alphabetical order. In accordance with our declared policy (see Brit. Birds 68: 1-4), the new county names have been used, and observers are asked to bear this in mind when submitting records.

(ii) In general, this report is confined to records which are regarded as certain, and 'probables' are not included. In the case of the very similar Long-billed \textit{Limnodromus scolopaceus} and Short-billed Dowitchers \textit{L. griseus}, however, we are continuing to publish indeterminable records, and this also applies to observations of pratincoles \textit{Glareola} and of such difficult groups as albatrosses \textit{Diomedea} and frigatebirds \textit{Fregata}.

(iii) The sequence of species, vernacular names and specific nomenclature follow \textit{The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic} (1984). Any sight records of subspecies (including those of birds trapped and released) are normally referred to as 'showing the characters' of the race concerned.

(iv) The three numbers in brackets after each species' name refer respectively to the total number of individuals recorded in Britain and Ireland (excluding those 'At sea') (1) to the end of 1957, (2) for the period since the formation of the Rarities Committee in 1958, but excluding (3) the current year. The decision as to whether one or more individuals was involved is often difficult and rather arbitrary, but the consensus of members is indicated by 'possibly the same' (counted as different in the totals), 'probably the same' (counted as the same in totals), or 'the same' when the evidence is certain or overwhelming. An identical approach is applied to records of the same species recurring at the same locality after a lapse of time, including those which occur annually at the same or nearby site. In considering claims of more than one individual at the same or adjacent localities, the Committee usually requires firm evidence before more than one is counted in the totals. A detailed breakdown of the figures for previous years is held by the Honorary Secretary.

(v) The world breeding range is given in brackets at the beginning of each species comment.

\textbf{White-billed Diver} \textit{Gavia adamsii} (18, 72, 5)
\textbf{Highland} Portmahomack Bay, Ross & Cromarty, adult \textit{♀}, 16th June to 2nd July when found exhausted (plate 247), taken into care by R. H. Dennis, but died 19th July of aspergillosis (lung disease); skin now at Inverness Museum (G. C. Headlam, D. W. McAllister, G. MacNab).

\textit{247. Adult female White-billed Diver Gavia adamsii, Highland, June 1984 (Dave Pullan)}
Rare birds in Great Britain in 1984


**Shetland** Bluemull Sound, adult, 6th November (P. M. Ellis, R. J. Tulloch). Whalsay, adult, since 26th November 1983, again 11th January (Brit. Birds 77: 508), present throughout year and considered same as that of 22nd April to 5th May 1983 (Brit. Birds 77: 508) (Dr B. Marshall et al.).

(Andic Russia eastwards to Arctic Canada) Some typical records. The annual average for the last ten years has been just under five.

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* (0, 8, 1)

**Gwynedd** Aber Ogwen, Caernarvonshire, 13th November to 30th December (S. Hugheston-Roberts, C. Stephenson et al.).

**Western Isles** Askernish, South Uist, individual first seen 8th June 1983 (Brit. Birds 77: 508) present throughout 1984 and to at least June 1985.

(North America) The South Uist individual seems set to emulate the first British Pied-billed Grebe, which spent five years on the Avon reservoirs. Strangely enough, there are still no Irish records.

**Black-browed Albatross** *Diomedea melanophris* (2, 23, 0)

**Shetland** Hermaness, Unst, first seen 1972 (Brit. Birds 77: 508), present from 27th February (Brit. Birds 77: 353).

(Southern oceans) The 1960s produced 23 new albatross records, compared with 13 in the 1970s and only four so far in the 1980s. This apparent downturn may persuade those who have not yet made the Hermaness pilgrimage to think again: even albatrosses don’t live for ever.

**Cory’s Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea* (few, 20512, –)

1982 **Kent** Foreness, 30th July (F. Solly).

(East Atlantic and Mediterranean) A late record which takes the 1982 total to 45. This species is, of course, no longer considered by the Committee.

**Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis* (5, 55, 4)

**Cleveland** Hartlepool, two, 24th September (T. Francis, G. Iceton, A. Robinson et al.).

**Dyfed** Strumble Head, 21st September (G. H. Rees).

**Merseyside** Hilbre, 2nd September (A. M. Stoddart).

1979 **Humberside** Flamborough Head, 30th September (P. A. Lassey, Miss I. Smith).

1981 **Dyfed** Skomer, δ, 26th June to 10th July, trapped 29th June and 7th July (M. Alexander, P. C. James et al.) (Ardea 72: 236-237).


(Atlantic south from Madeira and Caribbean, and southern oceans) The adjudication of seabird records presents a perennial problem to the Committee. Ways of improving the consideration of such records are currently being investigated. The above well-documented sightings presented no problems, but a number of earlier reports are still under consideration. The one in a burrow on Skomer was particularly intriguing.

**American Bittern** *Botaurus lentiginosus* (50, 8, 0)

1982 **Gwent** Magor, first seen 29th October 1981, to at least 3rd January (Brit. Birds 75: plates 34 & 35; 76: 479), last seen 7th (N. Odin, D. Upton).

(North America)
Rare birds in Great Britain in 1984

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus* (150, 139, 1)

**Norfolk** Norwich, ♂, 31st May to 2nd June (Mr & Mrs E. Wilson per C. Durdin).

1983 **Cornwall** Loe Pool, Helston, ♂, 8th August (*Brit. Birds* 77: 509) was found dead.

(West Eurasia, Africa and Australia) No details have yet been received of 1984's first British breeding record. The Norwich individual spent three days feeding on goldfish at a garden pond before the tolerant owners finally put up a wire fence to get rid of it.

**Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* (165, 150, 2)

**Cornwall** Skewjack, adult, 29th May (P. Harrison, M. P. Semmens *et al.*).

**Kent** Ashford, adult, 29th May (J. S. Russell).

1978 **Yorkshire, South** Graves Park, Sheffield, adult, 3rd to 9th July (R. P. Blagden *et al.*).

1983 **Cambridgeshire** Ouse Washes, adult, 28th to 30th June (A. Ferguson *et al.*).

1983 **Cleveland** Redcar, juvenile, 9th October (*Brit. Birds* 77: 509) was on 8th.

1983 **Dorset** Radipole, probably second-summer, 23rd June (D. A. Bridges, D. Tutt *et al.*).

1983 **Leicestershire** Aylestone, adult, 25th to 27th April, two, 25th (*Brit. Birds* 77: 510); both present 25th to 28th (S. M. Andrews).

(South Eurasia, Africa and the Americas) The two late records for 1983 take that year's record total to a remarkable 22. In complete contrast, 1984 was the worst year since 1966.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* (2, 29, 2)

(Almost cosmopolitan in tropics; nearest regular breeding in south of France) None in Britain. Ireland had its fourth and fifth in 1984: in the Killag, Kilmore, Tacumshin area of Co. Wexford, from 18th November to 9th December and at Stroketown, New Ross, Co. Wexford, from mid November into December. This expanding species produced only two records before 1958, nine in the 1960s, nine in the 1970s and 13 so far in the 1980s. Surprisingly, of these most recent 13, 11 have been in western Britain or Ireland. It has turned up in all months except February and June, but 12 of the last 13 have been in winter (7th November to 5th April).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* (23, 300, 19)

**Cheshire** Sandbach, 3rd May (A. G. Goodwin, A. R. Pay *et al.*).

**Cornwall** River Lynher, 26th August to 1st September (A. E. C. Aston, E. Griffiths, S. C. & Mrs P. S. Madge), also seen in Devon.

**Cumbria** Rockliffe area, 3rd June (A. Gremin).

**Devon** Higher Metcombe area, 13th April (G. H. Gush). Lopwell Reservoir, 15th to 17th August (R. M. Belringer, A. H. J. Harrop *et al.*), first seen Landulph Marsh 8th (per P. W. Ellicott); presumed same, Totnes, 5th to 12th September (R. E. Bailey, R. D. T. Shuttleworth *et al.*), Wembury Point, 22nd (Dr R. B. Wright *et al.*), 24th (P. F. Goodfellow); still at Yealm Estuary, November (per A. H. J. Harrop). Differing individual, Erme Estuary, 24th August to at least 14th September (R. M. Belringer, Dr R. B. Wright *et al.*).

**Dorset** Langton Herring, 5th to 11th May (J. Elliott, G. & Mrs P. Walbridge). Christchurch Harbour, 15th May (D. N. Smith).

**Glamorgan, West** Oxwich and Llandimore Marsh, 3rd to 9th June (D. G. Davis, D. Rich, R. G. Smith *et al.*).

**Hampshire** Farlington Marshes, 22nd June (G. Farwell, T. Jennings, D. J. Radford), thereafter many localities to 1st October (per E. J. Wiseman).

**Northampton** Thrapston Gravel-pits, 10th to 15th May (D. Caswell *et al.*).

**Shetland** Tingwall, Scalloway, Collafirth and Weisdale, 1st June to 9th July (D. Coutts, M. G. Richardson *et al.*).

**Somerset** Steart, 1st June (N. J. & Mrs S. G. D’Agorne).
Strathclyde Baron’s Haugh Nature Reserve, Lanark, 17th to 26th May (T. Baker et al.).

Sussex, West Pagham Harbour, 23rd May (C. M. & Mrs B. James, J. Young et al.).

Wight Bembridge, 25th to at least 28th April (P. J. Barden et al.).

1973 Cumbria Bowness-on-Solway area, 26th December to at least 16th March 1974 (Miss A. M. Baer, Miss E. H. Rhone, J. B. Todd).

1974 Cumbria See 1973 Cumbria above.


1982 Yorkshire, North Seamer Pits, Scarborough, 12th to 13th June (Dr C. Brown, M. D. & Mrs D. M. Simmonds).

1983 Hampshire Oxey Marsh, 3rd June (Mrs A. Smart); same, near Pennington Marsh, 3rd (R. P. Coe et al.).

1983 Suffolk Orfordness, 3rd to 9th August (Brit. Birds 77: 511), also Minsmere, 28th July; Havergate Island, occasionally 4th to 26th August; River Deben, 31st July, 30th August; Martlesham Creek, 2nd to 17th September (per P. W. Murphy).

(South Eurasia, Africa and Australia) In Ireland, singles at the Ferta Estuary, Cahircween, Co. Kerry, in April and May; at Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, on 15th May; at Corballis, Co. Dublin, on 27th May; and at Shannon Airport Lagoon, Co. Clare, on 12th and 13th July. Also, a late record of one at Lissagriffin, Co. Cork, on 10th April 1982. Another good year, bettered only by 47 in 1970 and 22 in 1983 (and equalled in 1982). The annual average for the last ten years has been 13. The recent high totals correspond with a 23% increase in France between 1974 and 1981 and a marked northward range extension (Brit. Birds 77: 587).

**Great White Egret** *Egretta alba* (10, 15, 3)

Gwynded Minford, Bangor, 7th August (C. Stephenson).


(Almost cosmopolitan, extremely local in Europe) In view of the recent upsurge in records, it seems fitting that Ireland should now get its first: one at Moneygold, Co. Sligo, from 22nd May into June (plate 248).


**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* (90, 337, –)

1982 Glamorgan, West Oxwich, adult, 30th May to 5th June (Brit. Birds 76: 482), to at least 22nd July (P. Britton, N. Odin et al.).
1982 **Greater London** See 1982 Surrey below.
1982 **Humberside** Southfield Reservoir, adult, 26th August (T. A. Ede).
1982 **Surrey** Beddington Sewage-farm, adult, 11th April (*Brit. Birds* 76: 428), locality is in Greater London.
1982 **Yorkshire, South** Barnby Dun, adult, 4th May (P. H. Mason).
   (South-central Eurasia, north to the Netherlands; also Africa) No longer considered by the Committee, but these extras took the 1982 total to 18.

**Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* (26, 24, 0)
1983 **Lothian** Dirleton, 18th June (J. & Mrs J. Levene), probably same as Borders/Strathclyde individual, 1st to 2nd June (*Brit. Birds* 77: 512).
   (Iberia, and Eurasia from France to China, also southern Africa) A blank year in 1984, but, in view of recent breeding records in Belgium and France (*Brit. Birds* 73: 257; 77: 587) and the high total of 37 in Sweden in 1983 (*Brit. Birds* 78: 339), British records seem likely to show a continued increase.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* (many, 25, 0)
**Essex** Little Clacton, two, 26th December (P. Newton), presumed same as Kent individuals.
**Kent** Stodmarsh, two, since 1975 and 1979 respectively (*Brit. Birds* 77: 512), to at least 12th April and, at latest, 1st November to end of year, summering as usual on Sheppey, 14th April to at least 22nd July (per D. W. Taylor et al.).
1983 **Kent** Stodmarsh, from 1st September to end of year (*Brit. Birds* 77: 512), at least one, 27th to 28th August (P. M. Potts).
   (Cosmopolitan, nearest breeding colonies in Balkans)

**Lesser White-fronted Goose** *Anser erythrophus* (47, 66, 1)
**Kent** Cliffe, adult, 10th March (E. D. & Mrs V. Lloyd).
   (Northeast Europe and Siberia) None at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, in the 1983/84 winter, only the fifth since 1958 which has failed to produce any. Escaped individuals were also seen: in Northamptonshire from 20th January to at least 10th June; in Humberside on 1st May; and in Derbyshire from 30th September to the end of the year.

249. Adult Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* of race nigricans, Norfolk, January 1984 (*Tim Lubbock*)

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla* (1, 16, 7)
Individuals showing characters of the North American and east Siberian
race *B. b. nigricans*, colloquially known as ‘Black Brant’, were recorded as follows:

**Essex** Kirby-le-Soken, adult, at least 22nd February (Dr S. Cox). Jaywick, differing adult, at least 29th February (Dr S. & Mrs P. A. Cox).


**Surrey** Staines Reservoirs, immature, 27th October to 18th November (D. Coker, R. B. Hastings, A. V. Moon et al.).

(Arctic North America and East Siberia) In Ireland, one at Carlingford Lough, Co. Louth, from 4th to 10th November; and one at Corballis, Co. Dublin, from 18th November to 24th February 1985. Late Irish records involve one at Strangford Lough, Co. Down, on 15th September 1982; one from 14th November 1982 to 9th January 1983; and one on 24th September 1983; one at Faughanvale, Lough Foyle, Co. Derry, from 6th October to 14th November 1982. Records of this race have recently been analysed (*Brit. Birds* 77: 458-465). Seven is a new peak for this unassuming goose.

**Red-breasted Goose** *Branta ruficollis* (15, 13, 1)

**Essex** Kirby-le-Soken, adult, 21st and 24th February (C. Brett, the late Mrs P. Harris, M. & N. Hutchings); same Mersea Island, 25th (A. & B. Goodey et al.). Presumed same as Suffolk individual below.

**Gloucestershire** Slimbridge, adult, 17th January to 1st March (R. D. Goater, D. B. Paynter et al.), presumed same as Hampshire individual below.

**Hampshire** Ringwood area, adult, 27th December 1983 to 14th January (*Brit. Birds* 77: 513), not present 17th and presumed same as Gloucestershire individual.

**Lincolnshire** North Coates/Saltfleet area, adult, 24th to 30th November (G. P. Catley, M. Davies, M. J. Warren).

**Norfolk** North coast localities, 11th November 1983 to 17th March (*Brit. Birds* 77: 513, plate 210), present at various localities between Holme and Wells to 23rd March (per G. E. Dunmore).

**Suffolk** Falkenham, adult, 11th December 1983 to 19th February (*Brit. Birds* 77: 513), later seen in Essex above.

(West Siberia) Commuting between the Hampshire Avon and Slimbridge (some 105 km northwest) also occurred in January 1967 and January 1969. One seen in the Barmston-Hornsea Mere area of Humber-side during March is assumed to have been an escape.

**American Wigeon** *Anas americana* (22, 108, 5)

**Dorset** See Hampshire.

**Hampshire** Bisterne, δ, 5th to at least 14th January, also occasionally at Week Farm, Dorset; presumed same, Ivy Lake, 18th to 19th February (J. M. Clarke, R. I. Thorpe, J. M. Walters et al.).

**Highland** Wick, Caithness, δ, 14th April (K. W. Banks, S. G. Mackay).

**Northamptonshire** Ditchford, Ringstead and Thrapston Gravel-pits, δ, since 22nd October 1983 (*Brit. Birds* 77: 514), to 11th March.


(North America) Three males in Ireland: at Inch Strand, Co. Kerry, on 3rd October; at Lough Beg, Co. Derry, from 13th October to the end of the year; and at Lough Foyle, Co. Derry, on 18th October. A fairly typical showing: the annual average for the last ten years has been about six.
**Teal** *Anas crecca* (13, 194, 10)

Drakes showing characters of the North American race *A. c. carolinensis*, colloquially known as ‘Green-winged Teal’, were recorded as follows:

- **Cheshire** Woolston Eyes, 5th February (R. Taylor).
- **Dyfed** Pentwd Meadows, Cardigan, 10th December (P. E. Davis).
- **Gwynedd** Llyn Alaw, Anglesey, 19th November to 13th December (J. Clark).
- **Lancashire** Martin Mere, 4th to 7th November (C. J. McCarty).
- **Lincolnshire** Gibraltar Point, 11th November (D. M. Jenkins, A. C. Sims).
- **Norfolk** Welney, at least 27th to 29th April (J. B. Kemp, R. Neale, J. Revett).
- **Strathclyde** Loch Don, Mull, at least 12th February (R. F. & Mrs E. M. Coomber).

1983 **Glamorgan**, West Oxwich, 16th January to at least 5th February (*Brit. Birds* 77: 514), still present 28th (N. Odin, I. D. Smith).

1983 **Humbertshire** Blacktoft Sands, 23rd to 24th June (K. Allison, A. Grieve, F. I. Holt et al.).


1983 **Shetland** Sandwater Loch, 16th March to 11th April (I. Sandison et al.).

1983 **Yorkshire, North** Long Preston, 8th March (E. Jackson, S. Ralph, B. Shorrock).

1983 **Yorkshire, West** Fairburn Ings, 27th October (A. Burn).

(North America) Two in Ireland: at Kinsalebeg, Co. Waterford, on 14th November; and at Lough Foyle, Co. Derry, on 2nd December. This sub-species has averaged about 13 a year over the last decade, so 1984 was pretty typical.

**American Black Duck** *Anas rubripes* (1, 11, 1)

- **Cornwall** Crowdy Reservoir, sex indeterminate, 5th December (P. G. Akers, D. J. Chown).
- **Gwynedd** Aber, 9, first seen 1979 (*Brit. Birds* 77: 515), present throughout year; maximum of eight hybrids, 16th September (T. Gravett, N. Odin et al.).
- **Scilly** Tresco, 9, first seen 1976 (*Brit. Birds* 77: 515) and thought present throughout 1983, but disappeared sometime after autumn that year. At least four hybrids present to at least April 1985 (per M. J. Rogers).

(North America) The Tresco female was presumably seven years old when she disappeared; she had bred at least six times, and produced some 22 hybrid young. The one in Cornwall was the first new arrival since 1981.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* (19, 94, 8)

- **Devon** Braunton Marsh, 9 or immature, 16th to 20th September (A. J. Culshaw).
- **Grampian** Fraserburgh, 9 or eclipse 16th September (K. Duncan, R. Smith), shot, Strathbeg, 19th (per R. H. Hogg).
- **Hertfordshire** Stocker’s Lake, 9, 20th to at least 27th April (R. R. Drew, A. V. Moon et al.).
- **Norfolk** Titchwell, 9, 11th to about 16th June (A. Banwell, M. J. Keene, J. B. Kemp); Welney, 9, 30th September to 5th October (J. B. Kemp et al.).
- **Orkney** North Ronaldsay, sex uncertain, 14th to 22nd September (M. Gray et al.).
- **Western Isles** Loch Hallan, South Uist, pair, at least 17th June (J. K. Archer, A. M. Stoddart et al.).


1983 **Shetland** Unst individual (*Brit. Birds* 77: 515) shown in plate 274.

(North America) Three were present on Mannez Pool, Alderney, Channel Islands, from 19th to at least 20th September 1983, and two were eventually shot. The last ten years have averaged seven per annum, but, surprisingly, there were only eight in Ireland during that period. Dull juvenile Garganeys *A. querquedula* are, perhaps, an under-emphasised pitfall in autumn.
Rare birds in Great Britain in 1984

**Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* (1, 163, 9)

**Cheshire** Woolston Eyes, ♂, 26th May to at least 28th August (B. Martin, R. Taylor et al.).

**Cornwall** Upper Tamar Reservoir, ♀, 15th November to 1985 (T. J. Dingle, G. P. Sutton et al.) (plate 250).

250. Female Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*, Cornwall, November 1984 (Graham Sutton)

**Gloucestershire** Flaxley Pool, ♂, 28th December to 1st January 1985 (J. W. Hale, F. A. Lander, J. D. Sanders et al.).

**Highland** Insh Marshes, ♂, 28th March and 1st April; presumed same, many dates, 11th October to at least January 1985; presumed returning individual of past five winters (Brit. Birds 77: 515) (Z. Bhatia et al.).

**Humberside** Tophill Low Reservoir, ♂, since 30th October 1983 below, to 29th February and 31st March to 20th April (I. Forsyth, J. B. Leeson et al.).

**Nottinghamshire** Carburton, ♂, 30th September (L. Holmes).

**Orkney** Holm, ♂, 7th to 8th May (J. A. & Mrs R. McCutcheon); same, Orphir, 13th, then Burray, 2nd to 16th June (C. J. Booth, Mrs J. Cromarty et al.).

**Shetland** Sandness, ♂, at least 20th November (P. V. Harvey, K. Osborn et al.).

**Strathclyde** Port Charlotte, Islay, ♂, 23rd January to at least 15th February (R. D. Bennion et al.).

**Suffolk** Benacre, ♂, 25th to 26th October (R. C. Smith et al.).

1981 **Highland** Insh Marshes, ♂, since 1980, 9th February and 15th to 31st March (Brit. Birds 76: 487); presumed same, 10th November (R. Leavett per Z. Bhatia).


1983 **Humberside** Tophill Low Reservoir, ♂, since 31st December 1982 (Brit. Birds 76: 487), to 7th April (R. A. Rose et al.). See also Humberside above.

1983 **Humberside/Yorkshire, North** Wheldrake Ings, ♂, 7th May (T. J. Barker), probably same as Tophill Low Reservoir individual above.

(North America) Two males in Ireland: at Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal, on 31st March; and on the North Slob, Co. Wexford, from 13th to the end of December. An improvement on the seven new records in 1983, but it is always difficult to be certain how many relate to wandering individuals.

**King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis* (62, 108, 1)

**Grampian** Ythan Estuary, ♂, 19th May to at least 4th June; same, Blackdog, June (Dr M. V. Bell et al.). Peterhead, ♂, 6th November (M. Innes).

**Highland** Loch Fleet and usual east Sutherland localities, ♂, all year (per A. R. Mainwood et al.), presumed same as 1983 individual (Brit. Birds 77: 516).

**Strathclyde** Turnberry Point, ♂, 10th to 12th March (G. Cunningham, R. H. Hogg et al.). Wemyss and Meigle Bay area, ♂, 10th December to at least 13th January 1985 (R. M. Smyth). All presumed same as individual last reported early January 1983 (Brit. Birds 77: 516).

1983 **Strathclyde** Ardmore, ♂, 9th January; same, Bute, 28th April to 2nd May; same, Woodhall, 13th November (I. Hopkins, J. J. Sweeney et al. per R. H. Hogg); all presumed same as 1982 individual (Brit. Birds 77: 516).
(Circumpolar Arctic) The Peterhead bird is the only one treated as new in the totals. It certainly seems that our supply of King Eiders has dried up, in marked contrast to the situation in Sweden, where there was a record 51 in 1983 (Brit. Birds 78: 339).

**Steller's Eider** *Polysticta stelleri* (5, 8, 0)

**Western Isles** Vorrann Island, South Uist, ♂, first seen 1972 (Brit. Birds 77: 516), apparently last seen 12th August (S. J. M. Gantlett).

(Arctic Russia to extreme northwestern Canada) There must have been hundreds of intrepid observers who, over the last 13 years, made the long northward trek to see this stunning duck. Indeed, the visitor’s book at the tiny Howmore hostel must read like a Who’s Who of British twitching. Unfortunately, it now seems that Steller’s Eider will revert to its former gross-rarity status, although it is of interest that there were two reports from Belgium in 1983/84 (Brit. Birds 78: 339).

**Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata* (75, 127, 35)

**Cornwall** Towan Head, immature, 24th November (S. M. Christophers).

**Dumfries & Galloway** Loch Ryan, ♀, 7th October (R. W. Forrester et al.).

**Dyfed** Burry Port, immature, 6th to 7th October (C. Harper, I. K. Morgan, E. J. Smith).

**Fife** St Andrew’s, ♂ and ♀, 3rd to 9th March (D. N. Bakewell, G. Megson et al.) (fig. 1), 18th March, 1st April (G. Andrew, A. Brown); ♂ only, 9th December to at least 27th January 1985 (D. E. Dickson, R. Shand et al.).

**Glamorgan, West** Worm’s Head, Gower, ♂, 4th February (P. A. Dean, W. P. Edmunds, C. Jones).

**Grampian** Spey Bay, immature ♂, 17th April; two ♂ and ♀, 12th December, ♂ and ♀ remaining to at least 5th February 1985 (S. J. Aspinall et al.).

**Gwynedd** Llanfairfechan, ♂, since 15th December 1983 (Brit. Birds 77: 517), to 6th April (B. Boothroyd).

Fig. 1. Male and female Surf Scoters *Melanitta perspicillata*, Fife, March 1984 (D. N. Bakewell)
Highland  Loch Fleet and Embo area, δ, 8th March, 23rd April, 5th June, 27th September to 21st October, 18th, 28th December, all dates presumed to relate to same individual (per A. R. Mainwood et al.), presumed same as one or other of late 1983 individuals (Brit. Birds 77: 517).

Kent  Dungeness, δ, 14th April (S. W. Gale, T. J. Toohig et al.).

Lothian  Gosford Bay, δ and φ, 9th April to 7th May (G. Anderson, A. Brown et al.).

Orkney  Hoxa, South Ronaldsay, φ, 18th June (Dr R. A. Cheke, Dr J. A. Cole).

Scilly  St Mary’s, φ, 2nd October (L. Allan, S. R. Bierley et al.).

1981  Glamorgan, Mid Kenfig Pool, immature, 11th October (Brit. Birds 76: 488), was found by P. Bristow and J. R. Smith; also seen at this locality, 25th October (M. Chown, N. Odin, D. T. Pitman et al.).

1982  Yorkshire, North  Filey Brigg, δ, 24th January (Brit. Birds 77: 517), was φ or immature.

1983  Highland  Fort William, δ, 26th June (Ms H. Young).

(5, 62, 4)


1983  Kent  Ashford, 6th September (P. Chantler).

(5, 62, 4)

White-tailed Eagle  Haliaeetus albicilla  (many, 9, 1)

Norfolk  See below.

Suffolk  Walberswick, first-year, 14th April (C. R. Naunton, R. B. & Mrs D. C. Tozer et al.), also Oulton Broad, 14th (R. C. Smith), Halesworth, 17th (P. F. Goodfellow); found shot, moribund, near Wells, Norfolk, 11th May; died in care 12th; ringed as nestling, Warder See, Schleswig-Holstein, West Germany, 5th June 1983 (D. A. Henshilwood et al.).

(Southwest Greenland, Iceland and Eurasia) This record continues the recent encouraging run of apparently genuine vagrants in eastern counties. Details of another record, the one in the Brill area of Buckinghamshire, have never been submitted, despite its vast viewing audience. At a time
when this magnificent raptor is on the verge of becoming re-established here, the disgraceful shooting of the Norfolk individual serves as a poignant reminder of the mindless destruction which led to its original extermination.

**Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus* (100, 263, 5)

**Dorset** Stanpit Marsh, ♂, 7th June (D. N. Smith).


**Shetland** Fair Isle, first-summer ♂, 4th to 17th June (P. V. Harvey, K. Osborn, N. J. Riddiford et al.). Eshaneys, first-summer ♂, 16th to 24th June (D. Coutts, D. Landsman et al.).

**Suffolk** Rendlesham Forest, ♂, 6th to 9th May (B. K. & S. Abbott, A. & G. Swash, R. J. Waters et al.).

1981 **Yorkshire, West** Allerton Water, ♂, 19th to 20th May *(Brit. Birds* 75: 497), locality was Allerton Bywater.

1983 **Durham** Cowshill, ♂, 2nd August (B. Armstrong).

(East Europe and south from Siberia) The poorest total since 1971, even allowing for a Norfolk record (at Holme) which is still in circulation.

**Eleonora’s Falcon** *Falco eleonorae* (0, 2, 0)

1981 **Humberside** Pattrington, second-calendar-year, freshly dead, late October (J. & T. R. Greensides per J. R. Mather); skin retained by T. R. Greensides.


**Gyrfaicon** *Falco rusticolus* (many, 73, 3)

**Orkney** Graemsay, at least 27th January (M. Gray, E. R. Meek et al.). Rendall and Evie, Mainland, second-calendar-year ♂, 22nd to 23rd April (M. Gray, E. R. Meek, P. Reynolds).

(Circumpolar Arctic) Also, one at Lough Foyle, Co. Derry, on 6th and 7th October. Three typical records. This falcon is currently averaging three or four a year, and has missed only one year (1969) since 1958.

**Little Crake** *Porzanapawa* (68, 28, 0)

1983 **Devon** Lundy, ♂, 17th April (J. Heath, K. E. Mortimer).

(Central and East Europe and West Asia) Found wandering around on Lundy’s ‘Puffin slope’, this bizarre record was superbly documented by some excellent photographs. A typically early spring vagrant: this was the seventh March/April record since 1958.

**Crane** *Grus grus* (many, 1,017, 44)

**Borders** Near St Boswell’s, immature, 1st to late May (H. B. McKerchar); probably same, near Grantshouse, 11th June, possibly since 4th (S. R. & Mrs C. E. Warman). Burnmouth, adult, 2nd June (F. Evans). Hule Moss, adult, 4th to 9th September (Prof. W. H. R. Lumsden).

**Cornwall** St Columb Major, 3rd to 4th December 1983 *(Brit. Birds* 77: 520), presumed same, 4th to 15th January (S. M. Christophers et al.). Rame Head, 28th April (A. H. J. Harrop).

**Cumbria** South Walney, 5th October (T. Dean, Mrs J. Robinson-Dean).

**Devon** Morthoe area, 25th April to about end May (R. E. Lewis et al.).

**Dorset** Harley Down, 26th April (Dr M. F. & Mrs J. W. Holt).

**Dumfries & Galloway** Gatehouse of Fleet area, 6th to 12th April (D. M. Hawker et al.).
Dyfed Llanddewi Brefi, adult and first-winter, 23rd December 1983 to at least 18th January (Brit. Birds 77: 520), both, Pembrey, near Llanelli, 26th January (G. Hall, C. Weekes); adult found shot about 28th, later died, now in Carmarthen Museum; first-winter remained Pembrey 26th to 29th (R. A. D. Hughes et al.).

Hampshire Titchfield Haven, three, 7th April (R. W. Russell, M. G. W. Terry, F. M. Voysey); same, Emsworth, 7th (R. Boatsen, T. A. Jackson).

Humberside Messingham, 6th September (A. & S. Jaques); presumed same, Broomfleet, 7th (T. Dixon), near Spurn, 7th, 8th (M. L. Denton, J. M. Pinder et al.), Sunk Island, 8th (per W. F. Curtis).

Kent High Halstow, five, 3rd April (R. Moore per A. Parker); same, Dungeness, 3rd (W. Rance, D. Sutton). Dungeness, 14th April (S. P. Clancy); another, 25th (A. Thorpe et al.). Westbere, 18th April (A. C. B. Henderson). Sandwich Bay, 14th to 15th May (D. Beadle et al.); another, 30th (D. Kelly); presumed same, North Foreland, 30th (M. P. Sutherland), Foreness, 30th (M. H. Davies, F. Solly).

Norfolk East coast and Broads area, up to four present for most of year (per G. E. Dunmore); one or same of Great Hookham and other localities, 1st to 23rd April (G. Jessup, D. White et al.), but adult found dead, Mundesley, 7th (per P. R. Allard). Weybourne, two, 1st June (M. A. Beevers), possibly migrants.

Northumberland Hallington Reservoir, 1st to 3rd April (D. & Miss J. Gardner-Medwin). Budle Bay, 12th September (D. G. Bell).

Orkney Sanday, two, 27th to 31st March (A. Cormack, J. E. Crossley, I. Peace et al.).

Suffolk Kessingland, 2nd May (J. R. Read); another, 16th (S. Abbott, A. W. G. Swash), probably from Norfolk Broads area above.

Sussex, East Beachy Head, five, 5th April (R. H. & Mrs M. E. Charlwood).

Sussex, West Adur Levels, 29th April to 9th May (A. J. Prater et al.).

Tyne & Wear Cleadon Hills, four, 4th April (G. K. Gordon et al.).

Yorkshire, North Wheldrake Ings, 19th May (D. Waudby).

1982 Greater Manchester Near Rochdale, two, 31st October (Brit. Birds 77: 520), first-named observer was L. C. Cook not Mrs L. C. Cook.

1982 Kent Dungeness, two, 30th October (R. K. Coles), another 40, also 30th (P. J. Makepeace per P. J. Grant). Lydd, 14, also 30th (R. K. Coles); all additional to those already published (Brit. Birds 76: 491).

1983 Cornwall Nanquidno, 23rd October (B. King). St Columb Major, 3rd to 4th December (Brit. Birds 77: 520), see Cornwall above.

1983 Dyfed Llanddewi Brefi, 23rd December to 1984 (Brit. Birds 77: 520), see Dyfed above.

1983 Greater Manchester Chat Moss, 13th February to 13th March (B. T. Shaw et al.).


1983 Kent Stodmarsh, 5th December (D. Painter).

1983 Orkney Birsay, 30th April to 18th May (Brit. Birds 77: 520), was adult; that at Tankerness and Holm area was first-year (E. R. Meek et al.).

(North and central Eurasia, locally south to Turkey) Also, seven on the North Slob, Co. Wexford, on 1st December. The late records for the 1982 invasion bring that year's total of new arrivals to 201. The annual average for the ten years 1965 to 1974 was six, but the corresponding figure from 1975 to 1984 (excluding 1982) was 28. This year's total of new arrivals was bettered only in the 1963 and 1982 invasions.

Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus (98, 79, 8)

Grampian Ythan Estuary, first-winter, 14th October (I. Macleod); same, Meikle Loch, 20th October to 3rd November (R. Proctor et al.); remains found, Cotehill Loch, mid November (per Dr M. V. Bell).

Gwynedd Bardsey, two, 29th April (B. Henshaw, N. J. Phillips et al.).

Hertfordshire Chandler's Cross, two, 7th May (Mr & Mrs P. A. Williams et al.), presumed same as Surrey individuals.


Surrey Perry Oaks Sewage-works, two, 8th to 9th May (F. R. Cannings et al.), presumed same as Hertfordshire individuals.
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Sussex, East Boreham Street, two, 12th to 18th May (R. & Mrs D. Harris, M. & M. J. Scott-Ham et al.).

1983 Cambridgeshire Nene Washes, discontinuously, 7th to 14th May, subsequently nested, but eggs stolen, probably by fox Vulpes vulpes; last seen 14th June (M. R. Coates, R. L. K. Jolliffe, S. Rook et al.).

1983 Cheshire Frodsham, 3rd May (J. C. Eyre), additional to two, 2nd to 3rd (Brit. Birds 77: 521).

1983 Humberside Blacktoft Sands, two, 12th May (A. Grieve, D. Page et al.).

(Southern Eurasia, Africa and Australia) It seems highly likely that the 1983 Cornish and Cheshire trio were the same and that two of these subsequently went on to provide Britain’s second-ever breeding attempt on the Nene Washes. The previous nesting involved two pairs in Nottingham in 1945. The 1984 records produced a similar statistical headache: could the two Bardsey birds have returned southeastwards via Hertfordshire, Surrey and East Sussex?

Cream-coloured Courser Cursorius cursor (27, 5, 1)


251-254. First-winter Cream-coloured Courser Cursorius cursor, Essex, September 1984 (Tony Croucher)
(Southwest Asia, and North and East Africa) Apart from a one-day bird in Cornwall in 1980, this was the first since the famous long-staying 1969 Norfolk individual. Judging by its 'moth-eaten' plumage and the semi-permanent clod of earth on the tip of its bill, an Essex field was a poor substitute for the Sahara Desert.

**Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* or *G. nordmanni* (36, 65, 1)
**Cambridgeshire** Graffham Water, 12th August (R. F. Porter).

(South Europe to West Asia and Africa) No positively identified pratincoles for the first time since 1979. The totals include those specifically identified.

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus* (9, 29, 3)
**Berkshire** Holyport, Maidenhead. 25th to 26th February (E. E. Green, Mrs R. Lister, I. M. Walker *et al.*).
**Greater London** Beddington Sewage-works, 31st January to 1st February (G. Messenbird).
**Strathclyde** Portencross, Ayr, 21st January (C. Campbell).

(North America, West Indies, Peru to Chile) Also, one at Ballymacoda, Co. Cork, from 15th February to 24th March (*Brit. Birds* 77: plate 75). Apart from a blank year in 1977, Killdeers have been annual since 1974, with an average of two a year. The Greater London and Berkshire individuals have been treated as one in the totals.

**Lesser Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica* (6, 87, 12)
All records apparently related to the North American race *P. d. dominica*.
**Cornwall** Sennen, adult, 2nd to 28th October (D. S. Flumm, M. P. Semmens *et al.*). St Just, juvenile, 18th November (A. H. J. Harrop, H. Taffs).
**Humberside** Easington, adult, 15th to 18th September (A. Cawthrow, J. Hewitt, J. M. Turton *et al.*). See Nottinghamshire below.
**Kent** Oakhamness Islands, Medway, adult, 22nd July (T. E. Bowley, T. Laws *et al.*).
**Merseyside** Marshside Marsh, Southport (formerly Lancashire), first-winter, 12th to 13th November (Miss J. M. Coates, S. J. & Mrs J. A. Riley).
**Nottinghamshire** Idle Stop and Misson area, adult, at least 8th to 9th September (J. R. Coleman *et al.*), presumed same as Humberside individual above.

**255.** Adult Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*, Scilly, September-October 1984 (Dave Sadler)
Rare birds in Great Britain in 1984

Scilly St Agnes, adult, 13th September to 4th October (J. I. Blincow, J. Gale et al.) (plate 255). St Agnes, first-winter, 31st October to 2nd November (G. P. Gill et al.); presumed same, St Mary’s, 2nd to at least 3rd November (C. D. R. Heard et al.) (Brit. Birds 78: plate 54).

Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter, 17th October (M. S. Cavanagh, N. J. Riddiford et al.).

Somerset Stoke and Tealham Moors and Cheddar Reservoir, adult, 4th to 26th October (T. A. Box, D. L. Buckingham, B. Rabbitts et al.).

Tyne & Wear Dorman’s Pool and Reclamation Pond, juvenile, 23rd August to 4th October (T. Francis et al.).

Yorkshire, South Wath Ings, adult, 18th July (J. M. Turton).

1983 Cornwall Stithians Reservoir, first-winter, 14th October (Brit. Birds 77: 521), to at least 13th November (per S. M. Christophers).

1983 Gwynedd Cemlyn Bay, Anglesey, 3rd April (R. P. Cockbain et al.).

1983 Western Isles Peninerine, South Uist, adult, 2nd to 6th August (Miss S. Alliez, M. J. Crosby).

(North America and Northeast Asia) There is also a late 1983 record of one at Rahasane Turlough, Co. Galway, on 23rd August (additional to the September record already published, Brit. Birds 77: 522). Twelve represents a new peak for this species, which, over the last decade, has averaged seven a year. It seems conceivable that the April bird in Gwynedd had wintered here undetected, but, although there are 11 November records, only one midwinter record has ever been accepted (at Caerlaverock, Dumfries & Galloway, in 1974/75, Brit. Birds 71: 499).

Sociable Plover Chettusia gregaria (5, 19, 1)

Glamorgan, West Mouth of River Neath (Nedd), 20th to 21st October (R. E. Harbird, I. F. Tew et al.).

(Southeast Russia and west-central Asia) This eye-catching plover was recorded 16 times between 1968 and 1980, but this was the first since then. The most remarkable aspect of this record was the fact that the above observers had actually been fantasising about finding a Sociable Plover shortly before their discovery: obviously a touch of ESP (Extra Sociable Plover).

White-tailed Plover Chettusia leucura (0, 2, 2)

Shropshire Locality withheld, 24th to at least 25th May (J. Sankey, P. R. Swales).

Tyne & Wear Cleadon, 21st May (B. S. Bates, D. A. T. Constantine, T. I. Mills et al.).

(South Russia and Middle East, and west-central Asia) The previous records were in Warwickshire in July 1975 and in Dorset in July 1979. As in 1975, the ones in Britain were matched by others on the Continent: there were two records in the Netherlands in June and July 1984 (Brit. Birds 77: 588). There must be a distinct possibility, however, that only one wandering individual was involved in total.

Semipalmated Sandpiper Calidris pusilla (2, 35, 8)

Cornwall St John’s Lake, juvenile, 19th to 23rd September (A. E. C. Aston, S. C. Madge).

Kent Elmley, adult, 21st to 23rd July (M. C. Buckland et al.).

Scilly Tresco, juvenile, at least 30th September to at least 7th October (P. J. Grant et al.).

1978 Cornwall Hayle, juvenile, date uncertain between 11th and 16th October (N. R. Phillips).

1983 Devon Lundy, juvenile, 3rd to 4th September (R. Campey, K. E. Mortimer, S. Wing et al.).

(North America) There were five juveniles in Ireland: two at Rosslare
Back Strand, Co. Wexford, from 9th to 17th September; two at Blennerville, Co. Kerry, on 16th September; and one at Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford, on 18th and 19th September. Eight is a new peak, but yet again most were in Ireland, where Tacumshin recorded its fifth in five years.

**Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* (1, 6, 0)


(North America) Re-examination of the photographs in the light of current knowledge showed this bird to be a classic moulting adult Western, the fourth ever. The last fully acceptable record was as long ago as 1975.

**Long-toed Stint** *Calidris subminuta* (0, 1, 0)


(Disjunct in forest zone of Siberia) The only previous European record was in Sweden in October-November 1977 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 37: 333-338). This superbly confiding stint afforded wader enthusiasts an excellent opportunity to sort out some of the species’ subtle identification features and, occurring at the same time as Britain’s first Little Whimbrel *Numenius minutus*, provided a truly purple patch for rarity enthusiasts.

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla* (6, 19, 3)

Kent Dungeness, adult, 18th to at least 25th August (P. J. Grant, S. McMinn *et al.*). (*Brit. Birds* 77: plate 242), possibly same as East Sussex individual.

Sussex, East Pett Pools, adult, 28th July (P. J. Grant *et al.*).

1983 Cornwall College Reservoir, juvenile, 3rd to 9th September (B. Cave, Dr G. W. Davis *et al.*).

(North America) Coincidentally, there was also an adult in Ireland, at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, from 9th to 15th August. Anyone who finds two Least and a ‘SemiP’ in one autumn can perhaps be considered unduly lucky, but the tenacity with which P. J. Grant has tackled the enormous problems of stint identification has quite clearly been well rewarded. The crippled Kentish bird and the one in East Sussex have been treated as two separate individuals, but there must remain at least a slender possibility that only one was involved. After a gap of four years, there have now been five records in the last two.

**White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis* (24, 222, 23)

Cheshire Frodsham, adult, 2nd July to 23rd August (P. A. Ardron, P. R. Brash, J. R. Hough *et al.*).

Clwyd Shotton Pools, adult, 30th July to at least 8th August (E. J. Abraham *et al.*).

Cumbria Hodbarrow, adult, 1st to 2nd August (R. I. Kinley, D. B. Thexton *et al.*). South Walney, adult, 7th October (J. V. Bhalerao, J. R. C. Dakin *et al.*).

Essex Two Tree Island, adult, 2nd to 4th September (M. Rowbottom, P. M. Griggs, R. Howard *et al.*).

Hampshire Farlington Marshes, adult, 27th to 28th August (G. C. Stephenson *et al.*). Warsash, juvenile, 12th October (D. A. Christie).

Kent Grain, age uncertain, 16th to at least 17th September (A. Parker, J. E. Tilbrook, B. Wright *et al.*); another, age uncertain, 30th September to 2nd October (T. E. Bowley, M. C. Buckland, D. W. Taylor *et al.*).

Lancashire Conder Green, adult, 14th to 15th July (P. & P. G. Slade *et al.*).
**Rare birds in Great Britain in 1984**

**Merseyside** Seaforth Dock Pools, adult, 19th August (D. Messenger, M. G. Pennington, R. C. Wilcox et al.).

**Norfolk** Titchwell, adult, 23rd to 30th July (A. & B. Goodey, I. Rowlands et al.). Snettisham, adult, 27th to 28th July (A. Banwell, N. Bostock et al.), not same as Titchwell individual.

**Somerset** West Huntspall, adult, 29th July to 16th August (B. J. Hill, B. Rabbitts et al.).

**Staffordshire** Tittesworth Reservoir, adult, 6th to 7th July (P. G. Barratt, T. E. Gibson, A. Sherlock et al.).

**Suffolk** Minsmere, adult, 28th July to 8th August (S. Callaghan, T. D. Charlton et al.); adult, 12th to 18th September (G. J. Carey, T. D. Charlton, B. D. Gee et al.).

**Surrey** Perry Oaks Sewage-farm, adult, 30th July to 12th August; presumed same, Staines Reservoirs, 18th (R. B. Hastings et al.).

**Tyne & Wear** Wallsend, adult, 7th August (J. D. Holding et al.).


1983 Norfolk Breydon Water, adult, 14th July (P. R. Allard).


(North America) There were also four in Ireland: an adult at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, on 15th and 16th July (plate 256), and a first-summer there from 3rd August to 1st September; one at Rahasane Turlough, Co. Galway, from 15th to 18th October; and one at Lough Beg, Co. Derry, on 21st October. This species shows some very interesting occurrence patterns, and this year’s bumper crop, bettered only by 25 in 1980, raises some intriguing questions. A quick analysis of the records since 1958 reveals a distinct double peak: adults in early August and, presumably, mainly juveniles in early October. Some 68% of July and 47% of August records involved adults on the East Coast and these presumably relate in part to birds which have crossed the Atlantic in previous years. The five in 1984, for example, follow on from a marked late-autumn influx into western Britain and Ireland in 1983. Could it be, however, that other
late summer records, particularly those in northwestern England, involved individuals which had made a deliberate transatlantic crossing, from northeast Canada or Greenland, with other waders such as Ringed Plovers *Charadrius hiaticula* and Dunlins *Calidris alpina*? Most later ones, in October and November, are presumably genuine storm-driven vagrants, as 68% of records at that time come from Irish or western British localities, compared with only 22% from the East Coast. Obviously this is a subject worthy of more detailed study.

**Baird’s Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* (5, 105, 5)

**Cornwall** Siblyback Reservoir, juvenile, 26th to 29th September (P. G. Akers, D. J. Chown, T. Miller et al.).


![257. Juvenile Baird’s Sandpiper Calidris bairdii, Dyfed, October 1984 (Howard Nicholls)](image)

**Lothian** Gladhouse Reservoir, juvenile, 8th September (R. W. J. Smith, Dr L. L. J. Vick).

**1982 Grampian** Rattray Head, juvenile, 26th September (C. R. McKay, L. Steele).

(North America and northeast Siberia) Two in Ireland: a juvenile at Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford, on 15th September; and one at Knockaderry Reservoir, Co. Waterford, on 30th September and 1st October. Some typical records; the average for the last ten years has been six.

**Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus* (23, 58, 8)

**Gwynedd** Malltraeth, Anglesey, 4th to 6th June (T. Gravett, D. Sadler et al.).

**Kent** Pegwell Bay, two, 23rd to 28th May (D. Beadle, F. Solly et al.); presumed one of same, Sandwich Bay, 31st (J. McAllister).

**Lincolnshire** Northcoates Point, 29th May (H. Bunn).

**Lothian** Aberlady Bay, 25th to at least 29th May; another, at least 2nd June (A. Barr, A. Brown, P. R. Gordon et al.).

**Norfolk** Breydon Water, 18th to 22nd May (P. R. Allard et al.).

**Northamptonshire** Ditchford Gravel-pits, 25th to 26th June (S. P. Fisher, S. G. Page, A. S. Vials et al.).

1982 **Norfolk** Cley, 26th to 27th May *(Brit. Birds* 76: 494), also 28th (M. J. Palmer).

1983 **Lothian** Aberlady Bay *(Brit. Birds* 77: 523), first individual stayed to 15th June (per A. Brown). Tyninghame, 15th June (D. J. Bates et al.), additional to Aberlady individuals.
**Rare birds in Great Britain in 1984**

**1983 Norfolk** Titchwell, 10th September (D. J. Britton et al.).

(North Eurasia) The two late 1983 records take that year's total to a record eight, equalled in 1984. The remarkable upsurge since 1982 has been maintained, and the recurrence of two at Aberlady Bay is particularly noteworthy. Inland records, such as the one in Northamptonshire are especially unusual.

**Stilt Sandpiper** *Micropalama himantopus* (1, 13, 1)

**Cheshire** Frodsham, first-summer, 16th to 28th April (G. Lightfoot, J. Rayner, J. C. Weldrick et al.), and various northwest Cheshire localities to 26th May and from 7th July; last seen, Frodsham, 3rd October (per S. W. Holmes) (Brit. Birds 77; plates 128-129).

(North America) The first in Britain since 1976, although singles were seen in Ireland in 1979 and 1983, as well as recent records in Finland, Spain and Belgium (Brit. Birds 78: 342). Always highly sought after, this year's exceptionally long-staying individual was widely appreciated. All the previous records were in autumn, apart from one in 1970 at Dornoch, Sutherland, on the similar date of 18th April.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis* (33, 411, —)

(North America) No longer considered by the Committee, but one at Garretstown, Co. Cork, on 20th September 1982, took that year's total to 27.

**Great Snipe** *Gallinago media* (180, 49, 2)

**Lincolnshire** Saltfleetby, first-winter, 24th August (Rev. R. J. Abraham); presumed same, 15th to 18th September (G. P. Catley, B. M. Clarkson et al.).

**Shetland** Fair Isle, juvenile or first-winter, 6th September to 3rd October (D. Coates, P. V. Harvey et al.).

(Northeast Europe and Northwest Asia) Late August to October has produced about three-fifths of all the records since 1958, with a peak in September.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (9, 81, 6)

**Gloucestershire** Frampton and Slimbridge, age uncertain, 12th October to 14th December (D. B. Paynter et al.).

**Kent** Dungeness, first-winter, 30th September (S. McMinn et al.).

**Orkney** Kirkwall, first-winter, 26th to 27th October (J. L. Hogarth, E. R. Meek et al.).

**Western Isles** Hirta, St Kilda, first-winter, 17th to 18th September (M. J. Helps, A. R. Kitson, P. R. Moore).

**1979 Hampshire** Farlington Marshes, 5th to 12th May (J. H. Marchant, W. Nelson, P. M. Potts et al.).

**1983 Essex** Old Hall Marshes, adult, 17th to at least 31st July (C. J. Mackenzie-Grieve et al.).

**1983 Warwickshire** Draycote Water, age uncertain, 10th November (R. C. Mays).

**1983 Yorkshire, North** Filey, adult, 2nd August (P. J. Dunn, I. Forsyth, H. J. Whitehead et al.).

(North America and Northeast Siberia) Three in Ireland: the long-staying adult at Ballycotton, Co. Cork (one of two first recorded in October 1980), remained until 28th March; a first-winter at Swords, Co. Dublin, from 6th to 11th October; and one at Lough Beg, Co. Derry, on 21st October. A typical year; the annual average for the last ten years has been seven.
**Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* or *L. griseus* (31, 179, 8)

**Tayside** Port Allen, 10th to 11th and 19th October (E. J. Maguire).

**1983 Norfolk** Hickling, 24th to 26th October (S. E. Linsell et al.).

(North America and Northeast Siberia) In Ireland, one at Lissagrinfinn, Co. Cork, on 5th October; and a late record of one at Lough O'Donnell, Co. Clare, on 5th October 1983. The above totals include those specifically identified.

**Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica* (0, 1, 0)


(North America) Assuming this to have been the bird originally involved in the 1981 sightings, it seems peculiar that it has not been picked up elsewhere.

**Little Whimbrel** *Numenius minutus* (0, 1, 0)

**1982 Glamorgan, Mid Sker**, 30th August to 6th September (*Brit. Birds* 76: 496), second named observer was D. E. J. Dicks, not Ricks.

(Central and Northeast Siberia)

**Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda* (15, 22, 1)

**Scilly** St Martin's, 23rd to 27th October (R. V. A. Marshall et al.).

(North America) The third consecutive year that one has appeared on Scilly.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* (12, 33, 8)

**Avon** Blagdon and Chew Valley Lakes, juvenile, 20th to 27th August (L. A. Tucker, K. E. Vinicombe et al.), also seen Somerset.

**Cambridgeshire** Ouse Washes, 30th April to 8th May (J. S. Kirby, O. R. Marks et al.).

**Essex** Fisher's Green, 28th April (J. Fitzpatrick, G. J. White et al.), also seen Hertfordshire.

**Grampian** Lossiemouth, 20th to 23rd April (R. H. Dennis, N. Elkins, C. Gervaise et al.).

**Hertfordshire** Broxbourne, 28th April (G. J. White et al.), same as Essex individual.

**Kent** Elmley, at least 23rd April (P. N. Collin et al.).

**Norfolk** Titchwell, 25th May (R. Henry, F. McLaughlin); same, Holme, 26th to 29th (J. R. Allan, V. Eve, G. F. Hibberd et al.). Cley, adult, 16th August to at least 3rd September (N. C. Machin, J. P. Martin, T. Smith et al.).

**Somerset** Cheddar Reservoir, juvenile, 20th August (T. A. Box), same as Avon individual.

(Southeast Europe, and West and East Asia; has recently bred in Finland) Ireland had its second in 1984: an adult at Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford, on 4th and 5th August, almost exactly two years after the first at the same locality—could it have been the same bird returning? Over the last ten years, the annual average has been just over three, with a previous peak of six in 1979. The remarkable upsurge continues and corresponds with recent increases in Sweden, Finland and France (*Brit. Birds* 76: 568; 78: 342). The April records are particularly unusual, but it seems conceivable that those in Kent, Essex, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire related to just one northward-moving individual.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* (35, 143, 6)

**Avon** Avonmouth, juvenile, at least 30th September to 5th October (A. J. Merritt, H. E. Rose, G. Youdale et al.).

**Dyfed** Bosherston Ponds, juvenile, 7th to 22nd October (R. J. Haycock, D. Little et al.).
Greater London Beddington Sewage-works, juvenile, 24th to at least 30th September (G. Messenbird et al.).

Lincolnshire Covenham Reservoir, 20th May (K. Robinson).

Norfolk Snettisham, adult, 28th August (A.J. Mackay).

Shetland Scatness, 20th to at least 21st May (A. F. T. & G. Fitchett).

1983 Oxfordshire Banbury Sewage-farm, first-winter, 2nd to 18th December (T. G. Easterbrook, A. Nash, H. Williams et al.) (plate 258).

258. First-winter Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes, Oxfordshire, December 1983 (T. G. Easterbrook)

1983 Sussex, East Eastbourne, first-winter, 3rd February to 7th April (Brit. Birds 77: 526), last seen 9th (R. A. Hargreaves et al.).

(North America) The average for the last ten years has been seven, with a peak of 11 in 1981.

Solitary Sandpiper Tringa solitaria (6, 15, 2)

Hertfordshire Tring Reservoirs, juvenile, 5th to at least 12th October (R. Hudson, S. Wilson et al.).

Seilly St Mary’s, juvenile, 8th to 14th October; same, Tresco, 19th (D. Gibbs et al.) (Brit. Birds 78: plate 33).

(North America) Two fairly typical records of one of our more erratic American visitors.

Terek Sandpiper Xenus cinereus (3, 19, 1)

Hampshire Langstone Harbour, 23rd May (D. J. Radford).

(Northeast Europe and Siberia) A red-letter day for the above observer, who had earlier found a Subalpine Warbler Sylvia cantillans.

Spotted Sandpiper Actitis macularia (6, 64, 2)

Devon Tavy Estuary, first-winter, 4th November to at least 6th January 1985 (P. J. Barden, A. W. G. John, R. Smaldon et al.).

Strathclyde Loch Indaal, Islay, 5th June (A. McNeil).

1983 Cornwall Drift Reservoir, juvenile, 22nd September to at least 13th November (Brit. Birds 77: 527), last seen 3rd December (L. P. Williams).

Wilson’s Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (1, 158, 14)

Cambridgeshire Graham Water, first-winter, 7th to at least 9th October (I. J. N. Nicholls, R. F. Porter). Ouse Washes, age uncertain, 29th October to at least 3rd November (A. J. A. Dally, Dr F. K. Hammond, M. S. Peck et al.).

Cheshire Frodsham, first-winter, 1st September (Dr W. N. Brooks, A. R. & C. Davies, M. R. Gough et al.).

Dorset Radipole and Lodmoor, ♀, 2nd July to 5th August (M. Cade, C. Condell et al.).

Grampian Cotehill Loch, age uncertain, 17th to 22nd September (G. F. Bell, Miss A. Nicol, A. Stalker et al.).

Hampshire Paulsgrove, Portsmouth, first-winter, 18th October (T. Jennings, W. Percy).

Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point, first-winter, 11th September to 5th October (T. Hiscock, D. J. Ridgley et al.); probably same, Anderby Creek, 3rd October (K. Atkin, K. Wilson).

Somerset Steart, first-winter, 13th October (T. Foard, B. D. Gibbs); same, West Huntspill, 16th to 26th (B. J. Hill, B. Rabbitts et al.).

Strathclyde Hillend Reservoir, age uncertain, 10th October (Dr J. N. Darroch, J. Middleton).

Sussex, East Rye, ♀, 30th June to 1st July (B. H. Beck, Dr B. J. Yates et al.).


1982 Clwyd Connah’s Quay, adult, 5th September (B. C. Forrester et al.).

1983 Humberside Blacktoft Sands, ♀, 23rd June (A. Grieve, D. Page et al.), probably same as Norfolk individual below.

1983 Norfolk Titchwell, ♀, 25th June to 2nd July (C. I. Bushell, G. N. Wilkins et al.). Presumed same, Cley, 3rd to 17th July (D. & Mrs J. Dell et al.). These and the Humberside sighting all probably relate to the Minsmere, Suffolk, individual of 6th to at least 8th June (Brit. Birds 77: 528).

(North America) Three in Ireland: single juveniles at Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford, on 10th and 11th August and from 31st August to 30th September; and at Lough Beg, Co. Derry, on 29th September. Also, a late record of one at Kinsale Marsh, Co. Cork, on 29th August 1983. Ten or 11 has been the average for the last ten years, and 14 was bettered only by 19 in 1979 and 17 in 1980. It does seem possible, however, that some duplication was involved in the above records, particularly the ones in East Sussex and Dorset. The first Tacumshin individual was remarkably early for a juvenile.

259. Adult Wilson’s Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*, West Sussex, October 1984 (P. W. Maton)
Great Black-headed Gull *Larus ichthyaetus* (5, 0, 0)

1966 Man Calf of Man, 21st May (*Brit. Birds* 60: 320), now considered not acceptable after review.

(Southern Russia, West and Central Asia) The last accepted record was at Hove, East Sussex, on 9th August 1932, and this striking gull is now set for relegation to Category B. Thorough review of all the old records would, however, also seem sensible.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* (2, 33, 7)


(*Graham P. Catley*)
Rare birds in Great Britain in 1984

Cumbria Kent Estuary, first-summer, 27th May (P. J. Marsh et al.); presumed same, High Foulshaw, now second-winter, 14th August (A. F. Gould).

Devon Axe Estuary, first-winter, 6th January (P. G. Akers, D. J. Chown).

Humberside East Park, Hull, first-summer, 16th April (P. Coupland); presumed same, now second-winter, 9th November to 1985 (K. Rotherham, A. Wrighton et al.) (plates 260 & 261); same, Barton-on-Humber, 28th December (G. P. Catley); also in Lincolnshire below. (Brit. Birds 78: plate 66).

Lincolnshire Thorpe-on-Hill, first-summer, 23rd May (K. Durose, A. C. Sims et al.); presumed same as Humberside individual.

Tyne & Wear North Shields, first/second-winter, 11th to 12th February (J. D. & P. J. Holding et al.); same, Newcastle General Hospital, 27th February to 12th March, 27th to 28th July, 12th September to 1985 (N. J. Watmough et al.); same, Seaton Burn, 12th May, 31st August (A. J. Johnston et al.) (Brit. Birds 77: plates 73-74).

Yorkshire, North Filey, second-winter, 23rd July (H. J. Whitehead et al.).


(North America) Ireland had its third and fourth in 1984: first-years at Cobh, Co. Cork, from 25th to at least 29th January (Brit. Birds 77: plates 71 & 72); and in the Dublin Bay area from 10th June to 3rd July. A record showing. It seems odd that three should have been in the Northeast, especially considering the relative paucity of East Coast records of Ring-billed Gull L. delawarensis.

Franklin's Gull Larus pipixcan (0, 8, 2)

Avon Severn Beach, second-summer/adult, 19th May (P. Bowerman, B. Lancastle).

Cheshire Near Runcorn, adult, 18th January (R. Harrison); presumed same, Frodsham, 27th January (T. Dean, B. Henshaw). See 1983 Lancashire below.

Cornwall Devoran, adult, 22nd June to at least 1st July (P. J. Basterfield, L. P. Williams et al.).

Lancashire See 1983 Lancashire below.


(North America) This species has now been annual since 1980.

Bonaparte's Gull Larus philadelphia (11, 35, 1)

Gwynedd Bardsey, adult, 6th to 7th November (N. J. & N. R. Phillips, V. E. Wood).

1983 Cornwall Swanpool, Falmouth, adult, 5th March (Brit. Birds 77: 529), observer was M. A. Golley not Colley.

(North America) This gull has been recorded in all but two of the last ten years, with an annual average of two. The above observers are no strangers to this species, having been responsible for the discovery of the famous Cornish adult which returned to St Ives in four consecutive years from 1968 to 1971.

Ring-billed Gull Larus delawarensis (0, 264, 84)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, adult, 8th April (K. E. Vinicombe et al.).

Berkshire Reading, first-summer, 23rd March; adult, 2nd April (A. J. Croucher).

Cornwall Marazion, first-winter, 21st to 31st December 1983, then Drift Reservoir, January 1984 (Brit. Birds 77: 529), Drift Reservoir, 1st January, later found moribund, died in care, 5th February (per S. M. Christophers). Hayle, first-winter, 15th February (D. S. Flumm, L. P. Williams); second-winter, 24th March (P. G. Akers, D. J. Chown, D. S. Flumm); first-winter moulting first-summer, 25th March to 26th May, also at Marazion (D. S. Flumm et al.); first-winter, 19th April (D. S. Flumm et al.); first-winter, 7th December to at least January 1985 (D. S. Flumm et al.). Porthleven, adult, 3rd March (P. G. Akers, D. J. Chown).
Reservoir, first-winter, 25th to 30th April; same, Penzance and Marazion shore, 3rd to 4th May (S. M. Christophers, D. S. Flumm, H. P. K. Robinson). Swan Pool, Falmouth, first-winter, 18th February and 4th March (R. I. Allison, J. F. Babington, R. Crossley et al.). Par Beach, first-winter, 11th and 25th to 27th December 1983 (Brit. Birds 77: 529), to 7th April (per S. M. Christophers); first-winter, 8th December to at least January 1985 (S. C. & Mrs P. S. Madge et al.). East Looe River, second-winter moulting second-summer, 11th March (S. C. Madge et al.).

Cumbria South Walney, second-summer, 15th to 18th April (T. Dean, R. I. Kinley, Miss J. C. Robinson et al.).


Dorset Radipole, adult, 28th December 1983 (Brit. Birds 77: 530), again 4th to 5th February (M. Cade, G. Walbridge et al.); adult, 24th February to 8th March (M. Cade et al.); second-winter, 8th November to at least 31st December; adult, 26th November to at least 31st December; adult, 30th December (M. Cade, J. F. Ryan et al.). Weymouth Bay, probable adult, 7th February (P. G. Akers, M. Cade, D. J. Chown), additional to Radipole individuals. West Bexington, adult, 21st December (P. G. Akers, D. J. Chown, M. A. Halett), same as Radipole individual. Poole Park, adult, 25th January (P. V. Harvey). Stanpit Marsh, first-winter moulting first-summer, 14th May (D. N. Smith).

Dyfed Aberystwyth, two, possibly three adults: single sightings, 1st to 5th March, 7th to 8th, 11th, 13th, 15th, two 29th (A. D. Fox); one of same, 3rd April (J. McLoughlin, S. Rooke et al.); first-year, 7th March; second-summer, 22nd March (A. D. Fox).

Glamorgan, South Roath Park Lane, adult, 12th to 25th February (K. R. Lloyd et al.). Rhymney Estuary, first-winter moulting second-winter, 14th July (M. C. Powell et al.), also in Gwent below.

Glamorgan, West Blackpill, at least nine adults: 2nd to 4th March; another 7th (R. H. Davies); 14th to 17th April, two, 14th to 16th (R. H. Davies, S. Murray); 16th March to 17th April (P. & S. Murray, I. F. Tew); 20th to 22nd March (R. H. Davies); 27th March to 3rd April (R. H. Davies, I. F. Tew); 18th April (R. H. Davies, C. Evans, R. H. A. Taylor); 2nd October (R. H. Davies). Kenfig Pool and Sker Point, first-winter, 4th to 5th December (N. Odin et al.).

Gwent Landegfedd Reservoir, Pontypool, adult, 19th to 29th February (P. A. Dean, C. Jones et al.). Peterstone Wentloog, adult, 16th April (C. Jones, N. Odin et al.). Sluice Farm, first-winter moulting second-winter, 15th to 16th July (M. C. Powell et al.), same as South Glamorgan individual of 14th July.

Hampshire Titchfield Haven, first-winter since December 1983 to at least 19th February (D. R. Bishop, R. A. Chapman), see 1983 Hampshire below. Titchfield Haven and Stubbington, adult, 4th to at least 17th February (R. A. Chapman, J. M. Clarke et al.).

Lothian Aberlady Bay, first-winter, 4th October (P. R. Gordon).

Merseyside New Brighton, second-summer, 28th June (A. M. Stoddart). Moreton, adult, 15th to 16th July (M. Garner, W. S. Morton et al.); adult, 16th to 17th July (E. J. Abraham, M. J. Gibson, S. J. Jones et al.); first-winter, 16th July (A. M. Stoddart); adult, 28th July to 1st August (M. S. Garner, W. S. Morton, D. G. Weedon); adult, 30th July (A. M. Stoddart).

Somerset Sutton Bingham Reservoir, adult, 14th March (P. G. Akers, M. A. Halett).

Strathclyde Lochgilphead, Argyll, adult, 26th March (R. A. Hume).

Sussex, West Weirwood Reservoir, adult, 10th to 20th December (Dr M. R. Howard, D. Shackleton).


1982 Gloucestershire Slimbridge, second-winter, 11th January (L. P. Alder, D. G. Riddle, M. Thompson), previously rejected for this date (Brit. Birds 77: 582) but accepted for 16th to 30th (Brit. Birds 77: 532).


1983 Cleveland Redcar, first-summer, 21st July (D. J. Britton).

1983 Cornwall Marazion, first-winter, 21st to 31st December (Brit. Birds 77: 529), see Cornwall above.
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1983 Dorset Radipole and Lodmoor, adult, 28th December to January 1984 (Brit. Birds 77: 530), see Dorset above.

1983 Dyfed Aberystwyth, adult, 10th to 12th January (A. D. Fox, A. P. Fowles et al.).

1983 Hampshire Titchfield Haven, first-winter, 26th December (Brit. Birds 77: 530), see Hampshire above.

(North America) A total of 31 was recorded in Ireland in 1984, of which 30 were new arrivals: two adults at Limerick City on 10th February; adult at Sligo City on 12th February; two adults at the Lough, Cork, on 23rd February and a first-winter there on 30th December; a first-winter at Sandymount, Co. Dublin, from 25th February to 16th June, two adults there from 22nd March to 21st April, a first-summer from 19th May to 16th June, and another first-summer from 10th June to 17th August, a second-winter from 11th September to 28th December and a first-winter on 31st October; three adults at Galway City from 12th January to 23rd March; adult at Little Island, Cork, on 16th March; adult at Raven Point, Co. Wexford, on 18th March; adult at Ballymacoda, Co. Cork, on 3rd September; adult at Dundalk, Co. Louth, from 23rd to 26th September and a second-winter at Glen Bay, Co. Donegal, on 3rd October. In Northern Ireland, up to three adults (one from 1983) at Belfast Harbour Estate, Co. Down, throughout January until at least 20th March, and again from 10th December into 1985; single adults at Derry City from 20th January to 18th February; at Longfield, Co. Derry, on 17th February; at the Bann Estuary, Co. Derry, on 24th March; and at Newcastle, Co. Down, on 30th December. A late 1983 record involved one (age not given) at Tarbet, Co. Kerry, from 3rd January to 4th April. The records from Northern Ireland in 1981, referred to as ‘second-summer’ (Brit. Birds 75: 508), were first-summer.

A paper analysing the occurrence patterns of this species has recently been published (Brit. Birds 78: 327-337). The late records for 1982 and 1983 bring those year’s totals to 76 and 89 respectively (there were also 55 in the big influx year of 1981). The 1984 total of new arrivals indicates a levelling off of numbers in the absence of a further large influx of first-years. This year’s total of newly arriving first-years was 22 (26% of the total); some 45% of these were in Devon and Cornwall. It is interesting to note that neither of the two main localities, Radipole Lake, Dorset, or Blackpill, West Glamorgan, produced any first-years in 1984, while in Ireland the percentage of first-years was a lower 17%. The series of late summer adults in Merseyside was particularly interesting, as was the early October first-year in Aberlady Bay, Lothian. This was the second such record from this eastern Scottish locality (Brit. Birds 77: 530) and it may be the strongest indicator yet that a small breeding population is already established on this side of the Atlantic.

Iceland Gull Larus glauroides (0, 4, 0)

Individuals showing characters of the North American race L. g. kumlieni, colloquially known as ‘Kumlien’s Gull’, were recorded as follows:

1982 Avon Chew Valley Lake, adult, 16th April (A. J. Merritt, K. E. Vinicombe et al.).

1983 Devon Plymouth, adult, 12th to 16th January (B. R. Field, P. Harrison, R. Smaldon) (plates 262 & 263).
262 & 263. Adult Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoioides* of race *kumlieni*, Devon, January 1983 (B. R. Field)

264. Adult Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoioides* of race *kumlieni*, Shetland, February 1983 (Dennis Coutts)

1983 Shetland Lerwick, adult, 4th to 8th February (G. Bashford, C. Byers, M. S. Chapman *et al.* (plate 264). (Baffin Island and northwest Ungava Peninsula, Canada) The only previous record was in Co. Kerry in 1958 (*Brit. Birds* 53: 412). It seems possible, however, that this race has been to some extent overlooked, and a number of other records, involving individuals in more problematical
immature plumages, are still under consideration. One wonders whether these might be a prelude to Britain and Ireland's first Thayer's Gull L. thayeri.

**Ross's Gull** *Rhodostethia rosea* (2, 39, 2)

**Highland** See 1983 Highland below.


**1983 Highland** Thurso, adult, 20th November to 16th May 1984; presumed same, 12th November 1984 to at least 7th January 1985 (S. Laybourne, E. W. E. Maughan et al.).

**1983 Yorkshire, North** Filey Brigg, adult, 17th to 20th February (Brit. Birds 77: 534), was found by Rosemary Bowman.

(Northeast Siberia, Greenland and Canada) In Ireland, there was an adult at Galway City from 11th January to 4th March; and a late record of a first-winter at Ramore Head, Co. Antrim, on 19th and 20th January 1983. Two other 1983 Irish records are still under consideration. In the light of recent correspondence on the origins of British Glaucous Gulls *Larus hyperboreus* (Brit. Birds 77: 165-166; 78: 355-356), it seems plausible that we are also getting Ross's Gulls from two separate sources. Until 1980, 80% of the total of 25 had been in northern Scotland or eastern England, suggesting an Arctic origin from the north or east. The 18 recorded in the last four years represent a remarkable increase, but the percentage occurring in northern Scotland or eastern England has dropped to 50%, the remaining 50% having been in western Britain (two) and in Ireland (seven), compared with only 12% of the previous 24. The recent upsurge in Ross's Gull numbers has not been matched by its Arctic congener, the Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*, and surely the most logical explanation is that we are now receiving Ross's Gulls which have been swept across the Atlantic from the northwest (perhaps from an expanding Arctic Canadian or Greenland population?).

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* (53, 169, 1)

**Sussex, West** Ferring, 26th April (R. J. Sandison).

**1983 Norfolk** Holme, 11th May (P. R. Clarke).

(Almost cosmopolitan, nearest breeding colony in Denmark) Another poor showing, no doubt reflecting the current poor state of the Danish breeding population *(BWP)*.

**Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia* (30, 126, 4)

**Dorset** Poole Harbour, 28th July (M. A. Hallett, R. Newton).

**Kent** Dungeness, 29th May (A. Warren).

**Surrey** Papercourt Gravel-pits, 9th August (J. Beck, T. M. J. Doran, R. Stride et al.).

**Sussex, East** Rye, 9th to 10th July (P. F. Bonham, P. E. Philpot, Dr B. J. Yates).

(Cosmopolitan, except South America, but everywhere local) This species averaged about six a year during the last decade. It has shown a substantial population increase in the Baltic in recent years *(BWP)*, although British occurrences have remained remarkably consistent since the mid 1960s.
Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (0, 5, 1)

Clwyd Point of Air, first-summer, 3rd July to at least 6th August (J. Rayner, C. Rowley et al.).

Gwynedd Near Penmon, Anglesey, adult, 30th September to 20th October (M. Donahue, T. Gravett, H. Knott et al.).

(North America) Also, a first-year at the Bann Estuary, Co. Derry, from 3rd to 5th December 1983. Another 1984 record, from Co. Down, has still to be ratified by the Irish Records Panel. The remarkable run—since the first in 1980—continues. The Clwyd and Gwynedd individuals have been treated as the same in the totals.

Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* (3, 5, 1)

Leicestershire Rutland Water, 8th to 9th June (C. P. Lythall, J. Pearson, P. J. Powell et al.).

(Oceanic islands from the Caribbean east to the Philippines and Australia) After a long gap from 1958 to 1976, there have now been five in the last eight years. This, the first to be seen inland, was also the first major rarity for this superb new reservoir. Another record, from Lodmoor, Dorset, is still under consideration.

Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata* (16, 9, 1)

Kent, Dungeness, 9th July (S. Bellinger, S. McMinn), also seen in East Sussex.

Sussex, East Rye, 9th July (P. Philpott, Dr B. J. Yates) (plate 265), same as Kent individual.

(Tropical and subtropical islands in all oceans, also Red Sea) A typical record, but the first since 1980.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus* (20, 59, 2)

Sussex, West Pagham Harbour, 2nd June (E. D. Lloyd).

1969 Hampshire (Wight) Newtown Estuary, Isle of Wight, adult, 26th September (*Brit. Birds* 63: 280), now considered on photographic evidence to have been first-winter Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*.

(South Eurasia, Northwest, East and Southern Africa, and Australia) There was also an adult at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, from 4th to 15th August (plate 276), the first Irish record since 1970. A return to normal after the high total of eight in 1983.
White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* (50, 435, 18)

**Avon** Chew Valley Lake, adult, 8th July (H. E. Rose); juvenile, 28th August to 1st September (I. R. & N. C. Machin, J. P. Martin *et al.*).

**Dorset** Langham, 18th May (J. V. Boys).

**Essex** Boreham, two, 8th June (C. J. Mackenzie-Grieve, J. Miller *et al.*).

**Hampshire** Titchfield Haven, juvenile, 22nd August (R. A. Chapman *et al.*).

**Humberside** Tophill Low Reservoirs, adult, 22nd June (P. W. Izzard).

**Kent** Dungeness, adult, 18th to 21st June (J. Gooders, S. McMinn); juvenile, 1st to 7th August (S. P. Clancy, B. Taggart *et al.*); juvenile, 17th to 23rd, also at Lydd (G. Hopwood *et al.*); juvenile, 30th August to 15th September, also at Lydd (D. W. Taylor *et al.*) (plates 266 & 267). Grain, juvenile, 26th August to 4th September (T. E. Bowley, J. C. Martin, M. J. Orchard *et al.*).

Norfolk. Llyn Point, juvenile, 24th to 27th August (J. B. Kemp et al.); adult, 5th September (A. Banwell, N. Bostock et al.). Denver Sluice, juvenile, 6th to 10th September (M. H. Raines et al.).


Sussex, West. Chichester Gravel-pits, juvenile, 3rd to at least 10th August (K. Noble, K. Smith et al.).


1983 Bedfordshire. Stewartby, juvenile, 10th to 12th August (D. H. Ball, M. J. Green, M. J. Palmer et al.).

(Southeast Europe, West and East Asia) This species has averaged 22 per annum over the last decade, and this year’s total represents an abrupt return to normal after only ten in 1983.

Brünnich’s Guillemot Uria lomvia (3, 15, 1)

Orkney. Birsay, long dead, 20th March (E. J. Williams).

1983 Shetland. Bannaminn, West Burra, recently dead, 30th October (M. G. Richardson et al.), now at Royal Scottish Museum.

(Circumpolar Arctic) The ninth consecutive year of appearance. Surely these tide-line corpses must represent ‘the tip of an iceberg’?

Snowy Owl Nyctea scandiaca (many, 192, 2)

Grampian. Cairngorm Mountains, probably first- or second-year ♂, at least 21st June to at least 1st October (R. Barton, D. Pierce, J. L. Swallow et al.).

Shetland. Fetlar, adult ♀, four, including probable second-winter (Brit. Birds 77: 538) from 1983 to mid May, two to early June, one to 25th (plate 269). Two, 25th July to at least November. Recent remains of adult ♀, ringed as nestling, Fetlar, 12th July 1969 (Brit. Birds 62: 474), found 27th July (M. Walker et al.). Ronas Hill, Mainland, adult ♀, 26th May (per I. S. Robertson). Uyeasound area, Unst, up to two adult ♀♂, many dates 9th April to 23rd July, both probably from Fetlar; one occasionally, 8th September to 17th October, probably third Fetlar individual of spring (I. Spence et al.).

269. Female Snowy Owl Nyctea scandiaca, Shetland, January 1984 (Nick Dymond)
1983 Shetland Ronas Hill, Mainland, ♂, 21st to 22nd June (Brit. Birds 77: 538). Further sightings of this or other Fetlar individuals: Uyeasound, Unst, 18th to 19th April (I. Spence et al.), 16th June (P. Bristow, M. Chown, N. Odin), 26th (per R. I. Allison); Snarravoe, 13th September; Baltasound, 30th September; Saxa Vord, 6th October (M. Sinclair, I. Spence et al.).

(Circumpolar Arctic) There was also a male on Cairngorm in 1979 and 1980, but there has been none on Fetlar since 1975.

**Tengmalm’s Owl** *Aegolius funereus* (49, 6, 0)

1981 Durham Fishburn, dead (leg only), ringed as nestling, Greften, near Vang, Hedmark, Norway, 10th June 1980 (W. R. Lawton per BTO Ringing Office and Oslo Museum).

(North Eurasia and North America) Of the six post-1958 records, four have been since 1980, perhaps reflecting a recent small expansion of range in northwest Europe (*BWP*). This one did its best to remain undetected, identification resulting from minimal remains and an efficacious ring.

**Common Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor* (3, 8, 1)


(North America) The twelfth in all, but the first adult male, and the first in southeast England.

**Needle-tailed Swift** *Hirundapus caudacutus* (2, 2, 1)


Needle-tailed Swift *Hirundapus caudacutus*, Shetland, May 1984 (Dennis Coutts)

(West Siberia to Japan, south to Northern China; also Himalayas east to Taiwan) The second successive spring record from the Northern Isles, but only the fifth in all.

**Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica* (0, 2, 0)

1982 **Cornwall** Porthgwarra, 21st to 27th October, two from at least 23rd to 25th (G. C. Hearl, T. P. Inskipp, L. P. Williams et al.) (*Brit. Birds* 76: plates 6-7).

(North America) The main identification problem is separation from the similar North and Central American Vaux’s Swift *C. vauxi*. We hope to publish full details of this record in due course.

**Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus* (0, 2, 2)

**Dorset** Portland, 10th November (M. Cade, M. & Mrs W. Rogers, G. Walbridge et al.); another, 10th (M. Cade, P. M. Harris et al.).


(Mediterranean, North Africa and Middle East) The recently accepted 1983 record was the second ever; the account of the first—in May 1978 (*Brit. Birds* 74: 170-178)—did much to clarify the field-characters of the species. The two in November 1984 were apparently associated with an unusual incursion of southerly air, and three further claims still under consideration were also in mid November.

**Alpine Swift** *Apus melba* (150, 189, 6)

**Glamorgan, West** Landimore Marsh, 3rd June (N. Odin).

**Grampian** Greg Ness, 19th October (R. Smith).

**Kent** Dungeness, 3rd June (N. C. Frampton et al.).

**Sussex, East** Beachy Head, 26th April (M. L. & N. J. Champion et al.).

**Sussex, West** Selsey Bill, 5th May (P. James et al.).

**Wiltshire** Swindon, 12th to 13th July (P. E. & Mrs I. Castle, P. S. Read).
1983 Berkshire Wraysbury, 9th to at least 22nd May (Brit. Birds 77: 539), also 23rd (M. S. Garner et al.).

1983 Devon Slapton Ley, 7th May (V. B. Hicks).


(South Eurasia, Northwest and East Africa) A slightly below-average showing. Since 1980, the species has been recorded annually in both Kent and East Sussex.

Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon* (1, 3, 1)

(North America) None in Britain, but one in Ireland, at Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare, from 28th October until early December and another recently accepted record involved a female shot at Dundrum Bay, Co. Down, on 12th October 1980: the second and third for Ireland.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* (2, 1, 0)

1982 Cambridgeshire Peterborough, adult, 17th September (M. R. Coates).

(Discontinuously in North, West, Southwest, East and Northeast Africa, Middle East east to Kazakhstan, and Northwest India) Both the previous records were in Scilly: in July 1921 (Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 92: 57-59) and June 1951 (Brit. Birds 45: 225-227). This individual, which appeared one foggy morning in a lorry park in central Peterborough, left the fortunate observer feeling somewhat incredulous. The escape risk is small.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* (154, 170, 10)

Derbyshire Edale Cross, 22nd July (B. & Mrs L. Carthy).

Gwent Peterstone Wentloog, 25th July (M. Chown, S. N. G. Howell); same, Blackrock, 25th (P. A. Dean, C. Jones).


Lancashire Fleetwood and Bispham area, 30th July to 1st August (P. Scholes et al.); presumed same, Leighton Moss, 9th (S. Bell, D. Chapman et al.), Heysham Harbour, 8th (A. Mackenzie, P. J. Marsh et al.), and Middleton, 8th (S. P. Coyle).


Sussex, West Sidlesham Ferry, 19th August (I. R. Watts et al.).

1983 Humberside Spurn, 8th June (N. C. Moores).

(South Europe, Southwest Asia and Northwest Africa) An above-average showing, but not comparing with the 25 in 1983 nor the 21 in 1981. Atypical numbers reached Scandinavia in 1984 (Brit. Birds 77: 589; 78: 343), and in recent summers the species appears to be reconnoitring areas to the northwest of its usual range.

Roller *Coracias garrulus* (135, 73, 1)

Derbyshire Morley, adult, 18th to 19th July (D. Buckley, J. Dawes, D. Page et al.).

(South and East Europe, West Asia and Northwest Africa) The poorest showing since 1972. Derbyshire was favoured by the appearance of a Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* in the same week (see above).

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (40, 225, 13)

Devon Lundy, 31st May to 3rd June (H. & S. Davies, I. Lewington, A. Parsons).

Gwynedd Bardsey, 30th April (N. J. Phillips et al.).
Kent Dungeness, 27th to 28th July (S. P. Clancy, T. J. Toohig, R. Walters et al.).
Norfolk Wells, 26th May (S. J. Broyd).
Scilly St Mary's, 13th to 27th October (R. A. Hargreaves, D. Nurney et al.); 26th October to 3rd November (R. P. Bowman et al.).
Shetland Fair Isle, 23rd September to 8th October (P. V. Harvey, N. J. Riddiford, S. A. Webb et al.); 26th to 27th September (P. V. Harvey, S. M. Henson, J. A. Hopper et al.); 6th to 19th October when taken into care injured; released 7th November, last seen 8th (N. J. Riddiford et al.); 21st to 25th October (N. J. Riddiford, I. S. Robertson et al.). Out Skerries, 26th to 27th September (J. D. Okill, I. Sandison et al.).
Somerset Berrow, 9th May (B. Rabbitts).
1977 Fife Isle of May, 26th May (Brit. Birds 71: 511), also 27th.
1983 Cleveland Saltholme Pools, 17th to at least 18th April (Brit. Birds 77: 545), also 19th to 20th.
1983 Scilly Tresco, 1st October (A. Vittery).

(South Eurasia, North and East Africa) Also, one in Ireland, at Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford, on 14th and 15th September; and one in the Channel Islands, at St Ouen, Jersey, on 29th and 30th May. A typical showing by recent standards, but including only the second July arrival since 1958 (though one summered in Cleveland in 1974, Brit. Birds 68: 323).

Red-rumped Swallow Hirundo daurica (7, 78, 6)
Fife Isle of May, 23rd to 24th May (J. Torino et al.).
Kent Sandwich Bay, 10th October (D. M. Batchelor).
Northamptonshire Ditchford Gravel-pits, 4th September (A. S. Vials).
Scilly St Mary's, 24th to 29th April (J. D. Sanders, H. Taffs et al.); 13th to 19th October (S. J. Broyd, F. R. Cannings et al. (Brit. Birds 78: plates 25-26, fig. 2); another, Tresco, 15th to 16th October (A. J. L. Smith et al.).

(South and East Eurasia, and Africa) A return to form after three lean years. The Fife individual was only the second in Scotland since 1976, and the seventh in all.
**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris* (120, −, −)


(Europe, South Asia and Northwest Africa) This species was removed from the list of those assessed by the Committee at the end of 1982 (*Brit. Birds* 75: 338).

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni* (1, 26, 7)


Shetland Fair Isle, four: 30th September to 5th October (P. Aley, P. V. Harvey, N. J. Riddiford et al.); 2nd October (P. V. Harvey, W. S. Morton, D. J. Weaver et al.); 22nd to 23rd (P. V. Harvey, N. J. Riddiford et al.); probable first-winter, trapped, 12th November (K. Osborn, N. J. & Mrs E. A. Riddiford). Whalsay, 26th to 31st October (Dr C. Mackenzie et al.). Kergord, 20th to 25th November (P. M. Ellis et al.).

(Northeast Russia to Central and East Asia) The best year yet. Since 1958, this species has mustered 33 records, compared with 141 for Red-throated Pipit *A. cervinus*; since 1980, however, the comparative figures have been 20 and 27, respectively. The wintering individual in Berkshire was unprecedented. It frequented a suburban garden and attracted around 1,000 observers, who were both well-behaved and suitably grateful (*Brit. Birds* 77: 268). The householders coped admirably, and provided a thoughtful analysis of the lessons to be learned (*Brit. Birds* 77: 430-431).

**Pechora Pipit** *Anthus gustavi* (13, 12, 0)


(Northeast Russia, across Siberia to Bering Strait) Only the third in England, the first on the South Coast, and found during the observer’s lunch-break.

**Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus* (30, 134, 7)

Devon Lundy, 28th September (S. J. Hayhow, S. H. Holliday).


Scilly St Mary’s, 4th to 8th November, two, 7th to 8th (C. D. R. Heard et al.).

Shetland Fair Isle, 25th May (P. V. Harvey, N. J. Riddiford et al.).

Tyne & Wear Seaton Burn, 7th to 11th May (A. J. Johnston et al.).

(Arctic Eurasia) The last five years have produced 27, only half the total (55) for 1975-79.

**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola* (2, 33, 1)

Cornwall Drift Reservoir, 27th August (P. G. Akers, D. J. Chown).


(Northeast and East Russia, West Siberia and West and Central Asia) Despite the identification problems, the species has been recorded annually since 1966. This was the first August arrival. It is of interest, therefore, that one (awaiting ratification) was trapped in the Netherlands during 24th August to 8th September (*Brit. Birds* 78: 343).
274. Female or immature Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*, Shetland, September 1983 (Nick Dymond)

275. Juvenile Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*, Cleveland, September 1982 (Paul Doherty)

277. Male Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*, Cornwall, November 1984 (*Brian R. Field*)
278. Male Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*, Kent, March 1984 (*Paul Doherty*)

279. Swainson’s Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*, Scilly, October 1984 (*David W. Burns*)
280. Male Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*, Shetland, June 1984 (*Dennis Coutts*)

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Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* (2, 50, 6)

**Humberside** Spurn, first-summer, in song, 23rd to 29th May, trapped 23rd (J. Cudworth, B. R. Spence, G. Thomas *et al.*); first-summer, 30th May to 2nd June, trapped 30th (B. R. Spence *et al.*).

**Lincolnshire** Theddlethorpe Dunes, first-year, trapped, 2nd September (M. Boddy).

**Shetland** Fair Isle, 7th June (P. V. Harvey, N. J. Riddiford *et al.*).

**Suffolk** Landguard, 13th to 14th May, trapped 13th (M. C. Marsh, B. Ranner, M. Wright *et al.*).

**Sussex, East** Beachy Head, first-year, 26th August to 1st September, controlled 26th, 27th and 1st September, ringed as first-year, Molen, Vestfold, Norway, 14th August (R. D. M. Edgar, Miss S. P. Hitchings *et al.*).

(Scandinavia, East Europe and West Asia) The five-yearly totals since 1960 have been nil, six, 17, 15 and 17, respectively; thus, although the species became a much more regular visitor after 1970 (associated with expansion in northwest Europe), it has shown no progressive increase. The Beachy Head individual was only the second in the extreme southeast of England and had travelled 1,099 km on a bearing of 214°. A spring record from the Isle of May, Fife, is still in circulation, while a report of a third individual at Spurn is yet to be considered.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* (3, 6, 1)

**Shetland** Fair Isle, ♀ or immature, 21st September (P. V. Harvey, K. Osborn, N. J. & Mrs E. A. Riddiford).

(Northeast Europe across Asia to Japan) The second for Fair Isle, which was also host to the last, in September 1981.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* (1, 68, 9)

Individuals showing characters of one or other of the eastern races *S. t. maura* or *stejnegeri*, colloquially known as ‘Siberian Stonechats’, were recorded as follows:

**Essex** Holland Haven, ♀ or immature, 14th October (P. Loud).

**Humberside** Spurn, first-winter ♂, 8th November to at least 11th December, trapped 12th November (J. M. Bayldon, K. Rotherham, B. R. Spence *et al.*).

**Norfolk** Blakeney Point, ♀ or immature, 5th October (G. E. Dunmore, S. C. Joyner). Sheringham, ♀ or immature, 6th October (T. Davis, D. Sadler, Dr M. P. Taylor *et al.*).

**Scilly** Bryher, ♀, 13th to 26th October (B. C. Forrester, J. A. Hazell *et al.*) *(Brit. Birds 78: plate 32).*

**Shetland** Fair Isle, first-winter ♀, 29th September to 3rd October, trapped 29th (N. J. Riddiford *et al.*); ♀ or immature, 30th September to 5th October (P. Aley, P. V. Harvey *et al.*).

**Suffolk** Minsmere, ♀ or immature, 7th October (C. Gomersall, R. A. Hume, M. Langman *et al.*). Landguard, ♀ or immature, 7th to 10th October (J. R. Askins, S. Piotrowski *et al.*).

1982 **Shetland** Fair Isle, ♀ or immature, 10th to 12th October, trapped, 10th (N. J. Riddiford *et al.*).

1983 **Lancashire** Downholland Moss, ♀ or immature, 26th December (M. G. Pennington).

1983 **Shetland** Cunningsburgh, ♀ or immature, 20th to 23rd November (A. Fitchett *et al.*).

(White Sea, eastwards across Siberia) Between two and ten have occurred annually since 1974. The 1983 Lancashire individual, on 26th December, was the latest ever, though there was one in Northumberland on 9th December 1981 *(Brit. Birds 75: 517).* Lars Svensson *(Identification Guide to European Passerines, 3rd edn)* has expressed the opinion that *maura* and *stejnegeri* should be regarded as synonymous, and this has the approval of I. S. Robertson, author of a useful paper on the identification of 'Siberian' Stonechats *(Brit. Birds 70: 237-245).*
Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* (3, 8, 0)
1983 Devon Preston, Paignton,♀, age uncertain, 4th to 6th December (M. R. A. & R. E. Bailey, D. M. Norman et al.).

(Southeast Europe and South-central Asia) This is the third accepted for 1983. No other year has produced more than one, but seven of the eight post-1958 records have been since 1976.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* (11, 10, 2)
Cornwall Porthgwarra,♂, 17th to 20th November (W. R. Hirst, L. P. Williams et al.) (plate 277, fig. 3).

Highland Freswick, Caithness,♂, 26th December to about 10th January 1985, trapped 27th December (H. Clark, S. Laybourne, S. A. M. Manson et al.).

(North Africa, Northwest Arabia and east to Mongolia) The first records since 1978 of this characteristically late vagrant (nine of the 23 records have been between November and January). There were also two in 1970, but no other year has produced more than one.

White-crowned Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga* (0, 1, 0)
1982 Suffolk Kessingland, 1st or 2nd to 5th June (B. J. Brown, L. E. Fox, R. S. Terry et al.).

(North Africa and Middle East) The first record for Britain and Ireland, now accepted for category A by the BOU Records Committee. It is difficult to decide whether this or the Marmora’s Warbler *Sylvia sarda* (*Brit. Birds* 78: 475-481, 575) was the more unexpected. Full details will be published shortly.

Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* (6, 11, 2)
Humberside Spurn,♂, 3rd to 4th May, trapped 4th (V. Grantham, B. R. Spence, G. Thomas et al.).
Scilly St Mary’s, probably first-winter♂, 16th to 18th October (D. Satterthwaite et al.).
1968 Scilly Samson,♂, 21st April (Mrs M. E. Lacey).
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(Central and southern Eurasia) The St Mary’s individual was the first to occur in autumn since one on Fair Isle in October 1936. There has not been a definite female since 1962, since when there have been 12 males: whether this indicates more than the male’s greater conspicuousness is open to speculation.

**Siberian Thrush** *Zoothera sibirica* (1, 2, 1)

**Orkney** Widewall, South Ronaldsay, 13th November (Mrs R. McCutcheon).

(Central Siberia east to Japan and south to Tasmania) The previous records were in October 1954, December 1976, and December 1977.

**Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus* (0, 1, 1)

**Scilly** St Mary’s, 28th October (S. M. Andrews et al.).

(North America) The first was on Fair Isle on 2nd June 1975; unfortunately, neither decided to linger.

**Swainson’s Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus* (1, 8, 1)

**Scilly** St Agnes, 30th September to 11th October (P. A. Dukes et al.) *(Brit. Birds* 78: plates 27 & 279).

1983 **Scilly** St Mary’s, adult, 17th to 19th October *(Brit. Birds* 77: 550; plate 221). David Brewer of Ontario, Canada, has kindly pointed out *(in litt.*) that adults of this genus cannot be distinguished from immatures in autumn, although immatures can sometimes be told from adults.

(North America) The St Agnes individual was the fourth in Scilly, and the first to arrive in September.

**Grey-cheeked Thrush** *Catharus minimus* (1, 16, 1)

**Scilly** Tresco, 21st October (D.J. Holman).

(North America and Northern Siberia) Two years in succession in Scilly for both this and the previous species.

**Eye-browed Thrush** *Turdus obscurus* (0, 6, 2)

**Orkney** Evie, Mainland, immature, 25th to 26th September (E. R. Meek, J. B. Ribbands).

**Scilly** St Mary’s, 20th October (C. B. Collins, P. A. Flint, R. A. Ives et al.).

(Siberia and Eastern Asia to Japan) There were three in 1964, one in 1978, two in 1981 and now two in 1984: singletons appear to be the exception. The one on St Mary’s was a particularly stunning individual and conveniently turned up on the day of a mass-twitch to Scilly to see the Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida*: not a bad day-trip.

**Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus ruficollis* (3, 11, 0)

1983 **Greater Manchester** Sale Meadows (formerly Cheshire), 24th November (J. P. Shaughnessy).

(Central Asia) Since 1974, this species has appeared in every year except 1980 and 1984.

**American Robin** *Turdus migratorius* (11, 17, 1)

**Surrey** Haslemere, first-winter, 12th October, possibly taken by Magpie (Miss R. Ritchie, Miss V. Z. Walmsley).

(North America) Also, a recently accepted Irish record: one found dead at Saintfield, Co. Down, on 15th January 1982. The Haslemere individual
began as a mystery garden bird, but, after an encounter with a Magpie *Pica pica*, a few stray feathers were found which confirmed the identification. This is not the first in the area: one frequented Windsor Great Park between 12th February and 5th March 1966 (*Brit. Birds* 61: 363).

**Lanceolated Warbler** *Locustella lanceolata* (9, 22, 4)

**Shetland** Out Skerries, 18th September (Dr C. Mackenzie). Fair Isle, first-year, 20th to 21st September, trapped 21st (J. A. Hopper, N. J. Riddiford *et al.*); 23rd September (T. P. Andrews, K. Osborn, N. J. Riddiford *et al.*).

**Tyne & Wear** Prior’s Park, trapped, 13th November (A. Belshaw, M. P. Carruthers, G. Harrison *et al.*).

(East Eurasia from Central Russia to North Japan) The tendency towards clusters of records has been noted elsewhere (J. T. R. & E. M. Sharrock, 1976, *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland*). The Tyne & Wear individual was only the third in England and the latest since the very first, in Lincolnshire on 18th November 1909.

**River Warbler** *Locustella fluviatilis* (0, 8, 2)

**East Anglia (county withheld)** In song, 13th July to 3rd August (observers’ name withheld).

**Shetland** Fair Isle, 7th June (N. J. & Mrs E. A. Riddiford).

(Central and East Europe and West-central Asia) Further records which reflect the continued population- and range-expansion in Western Europe (*Brit. Birds* 76: 509; 77: 240).

**Savi’s Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides* (many, -, -)

1982 **England (county withheld)** In song, 21st to 28th May (observers’ names withheld).

(Europe, West and Central Asia and Northwest Africa) This species was removed from the list of those assessed by the Committee at the end of 1982 (*Brit. Birds* 75: 338).

**Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola* (2, 7, 2)

**Cleveland** Hartlepool, first-winter, trapped, 27th October (D. Clayton, R. T. McAndrew *et al.*).

**Shetland** Fair Isle, trapped, 30th May (D. Bird, P. V. Harvey, N. J. Riddiford *et al.*).

(South Russia and Asia) The last four years have produced six records. The Hartlepool bird is the second-latest ever, and that on Fair Isle the first in spring. Incidentally, singles have occurred in Finland in June or July in four years since 1980 (*Brit. Birds* 77: 590).

**Blyth’s Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus dumetorum* (9, 3, 1)

**Humberside** Spurn, δ, trapped, 28th May (J. Cudworth, B. R. Spence *et al.*).

(Northeast Europe, across Asia to Mongolia) As with the previous species, this is the first to occur in spring, and the near-coincidence of dates is noteworthy. Another spring record, from Norfolk, is still under consideration.

**Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (23, 107, 2)

**Norfolk** Titchwell, 20th May (A. Dawe, M. J. Keene *et al.*).

**Yorkshire, North** Knaresborough, in song, 19th May (J. R. Mather *et al.*).

(Europe, Southwest and East Asia and North Africa) The species failed to appear in 1983, so these two are especially welcome. The last five
years, however, have produced only 11 in total, compared with 31 during 1975-79.

**Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais pallida* (2, 10, 1)

Scilly St Mary's, 16th to 26th October (C. D. R. Heard *et al.*)(*Brit. Birds* 78: plate 29).

(*Iberia and Northwest Africa, discontinuously east to Kazakhstan*) This surprisingly striking bird was the first since 1977. Being the first since 1967 to remain more than one day, it became the focus of much attention (*Brit. Birds* 78: plate 62). Arrangements are in hand for a review of all previous records.

**Booted Warbler** *Hippolais caligata* (1, 18, 1)


1983 Yorkshire, North Scarborough, 11th to 16th October (M. Marshall, M. D. Williams *et al.*).

(*Northwest Russia, east to Mongolia and south to Iran*) With the acceptance of the 1983 North Yorkshire individuals, the species has occurred annually since 1980, and these five years account for exactly half the grand total to date. A further record, from Dorset, is still under consideration, and details of one at Landguard, Suffolk, in early October have yet to be submitted.

**Marmora's Warbler** *Sylvia sarda* (0, 1, 0)


(*Western Mediterranean islands and, locally, coasts*) One of the great surprises of 1982, now admitted to category A of the British list by the BOU Records Committee.

**Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans* (12, 113, 13)


Man Calf of Man, 5, *S. c. albistriata*, trapped, 28th April (P. M. Howlett, D. Walker); 5, trapped, 17th June (P. M. Howlett, D. Walker).


Scilly St Agnes, 5, 27th April (J. W. Hale, J. D. Sanders). St Mary's, 3rd November (S. C. Harrap *et al.*).

Shetland Lerwick, 5, 14th May (A. F. T. & G. Fitchett *et al.*). Fair Isle, probable 5, 25th May to 1st June (D. P. Bell, N. J. Riddiford *et al.*).

Sussex, East Fairlight, 5, 22nd April (S. J. R. Rumsey).

Tyne & Wear Whitley Bay, 16th November (M. S. Hodgson).


1979 Highland Reay, Caithness, first-winter 5, 8th to 29th September, trapped, 8th (E. W. E. Maughan *et al.*).

1980 Northumberland Low Hauxley, first-winter 5, 26th to 27th October, trapped 26th (S. W. Anderson, T. A. Cadwallender, E. R. Meek *et al.*).

1980 Scilly St Mary's, first-winter 5, 24th to at least 29th October, trapped 28th (B. Bland,
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C. Murphy, C. S. Waller et al.

1983 Scilly Gugh, 19th October (J. A. Hazell, A. Stanford et al.). St Mary's, 19th October (K. E. Vinicombe, P. J. Wilson et al.).

(South Europe, West Turkey, and Northwest Africa) Also, one in Ireland, on Great Saltee, Co. Wexford, from 2nd to 8th May. The most recent years, 1983 and 1984, with 13 records each, are the best yet. With only two previously, the three November individuals are of particular note, those at Low Hauxley and Whitley Bay being the latest ever. The review of previously accepted records of Spectacled Warbler Sylvia conspicillata will be explained in a separate item.

Green Warbler Phylloscopus nitidus (0, 1, 0)

1983 Scilly St Mary's, first-winter, 26th September to 4th October (A. Davison, B. Reed, J. H. Ross et al.).

(Northern Turkey east to Afghanistan) The first record of this very close relative of Greenish Warbler P. trochiloides. Although first-winter individuals can be relatively distinctive, it should be noted that adults can be virtually indistinguishable from Greenish (Sandgrouse 6: 69-75; Brit. Birds 78: 437-451).

Greenish Warbler Phylloscopus trochiloides (13, 108, 5)


282. First-winter Greenish Warbler Phylloscopus trochiloides, Marsden, Tyne & Wear, August 1984 (A. Armstrong)


The following records, previously published as accepted, have now been reviewed and are no longer considered acceptable:

1961 Cleveland See 1961 Yorkshire.
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1963 Scilly St Agnes, 26th to 27th November (Brit. Birds 57: 274).
1964 Scilly St Agnes, 20th to 31st December, and into 1965 (Brit. Birds 58: 366).
1965 Scilly See 1964 Scilly.
1966 Berwickshire (now Borders) St Abb’s, 15th October (Brit. Birds 60: 326).
1965 Borders See 1966 Berwickshire above.
1966 Cleveland See 1966 Yorkshire below.
1966 Yorkshire (now Cleveland) Redcar, 6th to 13th November (Brit. Birds 60: 326).
1967 Cleveland See 1967 Durham below.
1968 Humberside See 1968 Yorkshire below.

(Eurasia, east from northern Germany) Also, one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, from 6th to 10th October; and an earlier record, from Hook Head, Co. Wexford, on 12th September 1981. Of 22 in Ireland previously accepted between 1952 and 1970, only three are now retained (Irish Birds 2: 536-545). The post-1958 total for Britain and Ireland is thus reduced by 25%; most of those now rejected are considered to have been eastern forms of Chiffchaff *P. collybita* displaying a rudimentary wing-bar. Full details of the review have been published in a recent paper (Brit. Birds 78: 437-451). Late August and the East Coast are now established as the time and place to see this species.

**Arctic Warbler Phylloscopus borealis** (19, 109, 8)

Cleveland Hartlepool, 6th September (T. Francis, R. C. Wilson).
Dorset Portland, first-year, trapped, 6th October (M. Rogers, P. P. Jennings et al.).
Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-year, trapped, 23rd September (S. J. Aspinall, Dr K. F. Woodbridge et al.).
Shetland Fair Isle, first-year, 3rd September; first-year, 14th to 17th September (P. V. Harvey, K. Osborn, N. J. Riddiford et al.); age uncertain, 15th to 22nd September (P. V. Harvey, R. McCurley, K. Osborn et al.).
Tyne & Wear Whitburn, 12th to 14th November (D. Foster, T. I. Mills et al.). Seaburn, 17th November (B. S. Bates).

(North Fennoscandia east to Alaska) Eight were also recorded in 1970 and 1976, but the only better year was 1981, which produced a remarkable 17. The two in Tyne & Wear were the first in November.

**Pallas's Warbler Phylloscopus proregulus** (3, 313, 7)

Dorset Portland, δ, trapped, 28th October (M. R. Lawn, M. Rogers); δ and φ, trapped, 2nd November (M. R. Lawn, M. Rogers et al.).
Dyfed Strumble Head, 31st October (N. A. Lethaby).
Norfolk Happisburgh, 1st to 4th November, trapped 1st and 2nd (J. R. Appleton, M. Fiszer, Mrs B. M. E. Unsworth). Blakeney Point, 10th November (G. E. Dunmore et al.).
Suffolk Landguard, trapped, 28th and 29th October (G. J. Jobson et al.).
1982 Grampian Newburgh, 13th October (C. R. McKay).
1982 Highland Halkirk, Caithness, 13th October (S. Laybourne).
1982 Lothian Dunbar, 13th October (B. Robertson).

(Central, East and Southeast Asia) Another poor year by the standards
of the past decade, but the phenomenal 1982 total advances to 127 (39% of the all-time total). An analysis of this influx and the associated meteorological conditions has been published recently (Brit. Birds 78: 381-392). The annual figures for the last six years have been 11, 22, 33, 127, eight and seven, respectively, which suggests that a population cycle may have been a contributory factor.

Radde’s Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (1, 43, 2)
Kent Bough Beech Reservoir, 26th October (S. J. Broyd, G. J. A. Burton).
Scilly St Agnes, 25th October (E. J. Abraham, L. J. Flooks, Dr J. Forster et al.).

(Central and East Asia) A typical year, following none in 1983 and a record 14 in 1982.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (1, 39, 4)
Dorset Portland, trapped, 27th October (M. Rogers, B. Sheldon et al.).
Scilly Tresco, 15th to 20th October (L. G. R. Evans, R. Filby, P. J. Heath et al.). St Mary’s, 23rd to 24th October (D. Gibbs, D. Page et al.).

Tyne & Wear Marsden, first-year, 8th to 14th November, trapped 9th (G. K. Gordon, T. I. Mills et al.).


(Central and Northeast to Southeast Asia) One was trapped in the Channel Islands, at Vale, Guernsey, on 5th November 1983. This and the previous species are still running neck-and-neck, with grand totals of 44 and 46, respectively, and 18 apiece during the last five years. Radde’s, however, failed to appear at all in both 1980 and 1983, while Dusky has appeared annually since 1978.

Bonelli’s Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* (3, 77, 6)
Cumbria South Walney, in song, 7th May (T. Dean, S. Lawson, L. H. Sanderson et al.).
Gwynedd Bardsey, trapped, 20th August (N. J. Phillips, G. Poole, D. Suddaby et al.).
Shetland Whalsay, first-winter, 7th October (Dr C. Mackenzie).

1983 Scilly St Mary’s, 21st to 22nd August (the late D. B. Hunt, J. Marra, Dr R. A. Studdard et al.). St Agnes, 22nd September (T. J. Addinell, C. D. Blair, A. M. Stoddart).

(Central, West and South Europe, Levant, and Northwest Africa) Also, two in Ireland: at Old Head of Kinsale, Co. Cork, on 22nd August; and at Hook Head, Co. Wexford, from 25th August to 2nd September. The five-yearly totals since 1970 have been fairly steady at 19, 23, and 22, respectively, so 1984 was a slightly above-average year. A further record from Shetland is still under consideration.

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* (2, 9, 2)
Kent Foreness, δ, 24th May to 9th June (M. H. Davies et al.).
Scilly St Martin’s, δ, 20th to 21st May (R. D. Penhallurick, D. P. Wyatt et al.).

(Central and Southeast Europe, West Russia and south to Japan) Ten of the 13 have been in May, but 1979 is the only other year to have produced two.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* (0, 9, 0)
Kent Stodmarsh, δ, at least 1st to 25th March (M. S. Garner, G. T. Martin et al.) (Brit. Birds
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77: plate 109; 78: plate 278, presumed same as 1983 individual below.

1983 Kent St Margaret's Bay, 17th October (A. J. Greenland). Stodmarsh, ♂, at least 22nd November (I. P. Hodgson et al.).

(Scattered from Western Europe east to Manchuria) These two bring the 1983 total to three, and, given continued activity on the Continent (Brit. Birds 78: 344), it is disappointing that there were no certain new arrivals in 1984.

Isabelline Shrike Lanius isabellinus (1, 16, 1)
Devon Berry Head, first-winter showing the characters of one of the races phoenicuroides-speculigerus, but closest to phoenicuroides, 4th to about 14th November (A. J. Lawrence, S. J. Lees, R. E. Bailey et al.) (Brit. Birds 78: plate 53).

(South Asia to China) There are several outstanding records caught up in the review of all pre-1980 records. The latest Soviet treatise on shrikes (E. N. Panow, 1983. Die Würger der Paläarktis) suggests that phoenicuroides and isabellinus/speculigerus should be recognised as distinct (semi) species, a proposal which, if adopted, would be good news for listers encountering classic adults, but could be frustrating for observers faced with an autumn immature.

Lesser Grey Shrike Lanius minor (32, 89, 3)
Shetland Fair Isle, ♂, 2nd to 6th June (N. J. Riddiford et al.).

(South and East Europe and Southwest Asia) The Jarrow individual was the latest since at least 1958, and it was this, perhaps, which generated some debate about its identity, finally resolved when it was trapped. Records have declined somewhat since the mid-1960s, the past four quinquennial totals being 23, 23, 17 and 14, respectively.

Woodchat Shrike Lanius senator (101, 359, 6)
Cornwall Sennen, juvenile, 25th to at least 28th August (R. Andrew, P. Harrison, V. R. Tucker et al.).
Cumbria Walney Airfield, 2nd to 7th June (A. Lawton, K. Parkes).
Dorset Melcombe Regis, juvenile, 16th to 22nd September when found dead (J. B. Good, B. J. & P. A. Gregory et al.).
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Kent Kingsgate, juvenile, 6th to 10th October (D. C. Gilbert, S. D. W. Mount et al.).

Norfolk Kelling, 25th April (R. Clark, K. Davies).

Scilly St Agnes, juvenile, 13th to 14th October (B. R. Field, T. Marlow et al.).


1983 Scilly Tresco, 6th May (D. P. Wyatt). St Mary’s, 10th to 14th May (P. V. Harvey, M. S. Smith et al.).

(West, Central and South Europe, Southwest Asia and North Africa) The two additional records bring the total for 1983 to 22, a figure exceeded only by the 24 in 1968. By comparison, the six in 1984 are fewer than any year since 1963.

Rose-coloured Starling Sturnus roseus (160, 136, 9)

Cornwall Helston, adult, 11th to at least 24th June (D. S. Flumm, S. C. Hutchings, J. Walker et al.). Hayle, adult, 19th July (P. & Mrs S. Wilcox).

Dyfed Castlemartin, adult, 1st July (R. Eynon, S. Hinton et al.).


Orkney Hoy, adult, 5th to 7th June (K. Fairclough et al.).

Strathclyde Fionnphort, Mull, adult, 13th June (R. F. Coomber et al.).

Sussex, East Beachy Head, adult, 24th to 26th August (T. W. Parmenter, C. A. Walker et al.).

Western Isles Rananas, Lewis, adult, 3rd to 4th August (Dr C. F. Mackenzie et al.). Hirta, St Kilda, adult, 7th to 13th August, trapped 9th (M. Arrowsmith, P. R. Moore et al.).

1983 Borders St Abb’s, adult, 10th June (I. & J. Gibson, P. Hood).

1983 Cambridgeshire See 1983 Lincolnshire below.


1983 Shetland Balista, Unst, adult, 14th to 20th June (Brit. Birds 77: 556), first-named observer was P. Bristow, not P. H. Bristow.

1983 Strathclyde Corraig Beg, Coll, adult, 9th August to 4th October (R. F. Coomber, J. Fraser et al.). Arinagour, Coll, second-summer or adult, at latest 11th August to 17th or 18th, when killed by cat (R. F. Coomber et al.).

(Southeast Europe and Southwest Asia) An adult in Ireland: at Sylne Head, Co. Galway, on 28th June 1983. Another good year for summer adults, but the seven-year sequence of autumn juveniles in Scilly came to an end. The five additional records for 1983 bring the total to 14, making that the best year since at least 1958.

Red-eyed Vireo Vireo olivaceus (1, 20, 1)

Kent Dungeness, first-winter, 3rd to 10th October (S. P. Clancy, N. C. Frampton, G. Hopwood et al.).

(North America) A rather elusive individual, which was the first away from Ireland and western Britain.

Serin Serinus serinus (76, –, –)


(West Central and Southern Europe, and Northwest Africa) This species was removed from the list of those assessed by the Committee at the end of 1982 (Brit. Birds 75: 338).

Arctic Redpoll Carduelis hornemanni (30, 62, 3)

Orkney Finstown, first-winter ♀, trapped, 12th October (E. R. Meek, E. J. Williams).
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Shetland Whalsay, two trapped, including adult ♂, 21st October (Dr B. Marshall et al.).

(Circumpolar Arctic) These three trapped individuals were associated with a considerable influx of the nominate ('Mealy') race of Redpoll C. flammea (Brit. Birds 78: 62, 120). A considerable number of untrapped redpolls (particularly in the Northern Isles) also displayed characters associated with Arctic Redpoll; it is hoped that the central file of descriptions, together with recently published opinion on the features of hornemanni and so-called hornemanni-flammea intermediates (for example, Svensson, 1984, Identification Guide to European Passerines; Molau, 1985, Vår Fågelv. 44: 5-20), will provide a more reliable basis for assessment of these and several other outstanding records.

Parrot Crossbill Loxia pytyopsittacus (10, 207, 16)

Norfolk Holkham Meals, at least a pair since 1983 (Brit. Birds 77: 556); three ♂♂ and one other, 30th January to 7th February; two ♂♂ and one other at least 20th March; one pair bred, raising one of four young; pair and juvenile still present to at least 9th April (J. B. Kemp et al.); ♂, 16th October (J. B. Kemp) (Brit. Birds 78: 482-505, plates 229-232).

Suffolk Locality withheld, up to seven, 29th April to late summer; pair with two juveniles, 30th July; probably bred (D. Croxson, R. V. A. Marshall et al.).

1983 Berkshire Easthamstead Forest, ♂ and three ♀♀ or immatures, 29th January to at least 6th February (E. E. Green, C. D. R. Heard et al.).


1983 Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-year ♂, trapped, 2nd October (the late R. A. Cawthorne).

(Northern Europe, from Norway east to Russia and south to Estonia) Breeding, confirmed in Norfolk and probable in Suffolk, was a welcome postscript to the invasion of 1982/83.

Trumpeter Finch Bucanetes githagineus (0, 3, 1)

Sussex West Church Norton, sex uncertain, 18th to 23rd May when taken by Sparrowhawk Accipiter nisus (N. Crooks, C. M., R. and Mrs B. James, R. J. Senior et al.).

(Southeast Spain, Canary Islands, Northern Africa, and Southwest Asia) The previous three were in Suffolk in late May and early June 1971, in Sutherland in June 1971, and in Orkney in May 1981. This was thus the first readily available to the current generation of birders, and it is a pity that it came to grief.

Black-and-white Warbler Mniotilta varia (1, 7, 1)

(North America) None in Britain, but a female at Loughermore Forest, Co. Derry, from 30th September to 2nd October: the second for Ireland.

Blackpoll Warbler Dendroica striata (0, 18, 3)

Devon Lundy, first-winter, 10th to 14th October, trapped 14th (J. M. B. King, W. E. Oddie, A. & N. Trout) (plate 284).

Scilly St Agnes, first-winter, 2nd to 16th October (J. I. Blincow, D. Young et al.) (Brit. Birds 78: plates 23-24).

1983 Scilly Bryher, first-winter, 22nd to 23rd October (Brit. Birds 77: 558), finders included R. Samuel.

(North America) Also, one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on October 6th: the third for Ireland. With these three records, Blackpoll Warbler draws alongside Red-eyed Vireo Vireo olivaceus as the most-numerous
American passerine to reach these shores in the years since 1958 (21 each); and a further 1984 record from Scilly has only recently been received.

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* (1, 0, 2)

**Scilly** Bryher, first-winter ♂, 2nd to at least 17th October (S. Kolodziejski, P. C. J. Skinner et al.) (plate 285).

**Shetland** Fetlar, ♂, 7th to 11th June (Misses J. & M. Gates, D. Walker et al.) (plates 280 & 286).

(North America) The first, which was also a male, was on Lundy, Devon,
on 4th November 1954. After an absence of 30 years, it is especially surprising that there should be a spring record and an autumn record in the same year.

**Savannah Sparrow** *Ammodramus sandwichensis* (0, 1, 0)


(North America, Mexico and Guatemala) Savannah Sparrow was predicted as a future Nearctic vagrant to Britain by Chandler S. Robbins (*Brit. Birds* 73: 453). The race *princeps* breeds only on Sable Island and winters along the Atlantic coast between Nova Scotia and Georgia. It has a total population of only a few thousand, but is arguably well-placed geographically for transatlantic displacement. A full account will be published shortly.

**White-throated Sparrow** *Zonotrichia albicollis* (1, 12, 1)


**Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica* (34, 129, 6)

Borders St Abb’s, 3, 23rd May (W. R. Brackenridge, M. S. Cavanagh).

Cleveland South Gare, 29th to 30th September (S. C. Bell, G. W. Follows, M. D. Wallace et al.).


Scilly St Mary’s, 14th to 15th October (J. R. Delve, J. Miller, H. P. K. Robinson et al.). Tresco, 16th to 25th October (J. A. Braggs, J. R. Chantler, T. J. Toohig et al.).

Shetland Fair Isle, 21st May (G. & W. Morris, N. J. Riddiford et al.).

1983 Shetland Scalloway, 2nd to 3rd October (Dr C. Mackenzie et al.).

1983 Sussex, East Beachy Head, 3, 8th to 12th October (R. H. & Mrs M. E. Charlwood et al.) (plate 287).

(Northeast Europe across to North Asia) A fairly typical year by recent
standards, though in general the species has increased in the past decade, with five-yearly totals since 1970 of 18, 43 and 38, respectively. Although certain years (for example, 1975, 1976 and 1980) have been good for both this and the following species, there is no consistent correlation; in 1984, Rustic Bunting was quite definitely the poor relation.

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla* (94, 210, 38)

**Devon** Lundy, 20th to 25th April (R. J. Campey, W. E. Oddie et al.); first-winter, 7th to 12th October, trapped 9th (G. Bace, J. M. B. King, W. E. Oddie); first-winter, trapped 14th (J. M. B. King, N. Trout).

**Dorset** Portland, 14th October (M. Cade).

**Fife** Isle of May, first-winter, trapped, 2nd October (Mrs W. Mattingley et al.).

**Gwynedd** Bardsey, in song, 28th to 29th April (N. J. Phillips, G. Poole et al.); first-winter, 31st October to 7th November, trapped 5th (N. J. Phillips et al.).

**Highland** Inverness, 16th to 21st April (S. J. Aspinall, C. H. Crooke, Mrs C. A. Munro).

**Norfolk** Holkham Meals, 5th October (D. Foster, J. McCallum); 11th November (P. Feekes, S. C. Joyner).

**Northumberland** Farne Islands, 26th September (J. Haw, N. Holton, D. Sharrod).

**Orkney** North Ronaldsay, 21st September (S. J. Aspinall); another, 30th September to 1st October (J. J. Sweeney).

**Scilly** St Agnes, two, 13th to 15th October (C. Bradshaw et al.). St Mary’s, 14th to 18th October (R. J. Fairbank, R. B. Hastings, S. M. Whitehouse et al.); another, 14th October to 4th November (D. J. Fisher, J. Hewitt et al.). Tresco, 26th October to 4th November, two 27th to 31st, three 30th (N. Borrow, A. S. Cook, B. Wright et al.) (fig. 4).

**Shetland** Fair Isle, eleven: 15th to 20th September, two 15th to 16th (N. Bostock, P. V. Harvey, W. Simpson et al.); 18th to 23rd, trapped 19th (P. V. Harvey, N. J. Riddiford, W. Simpson et al.); 21st to 22nd, two 22nd; 22nd to 4th October (P. V. Harvey, W. Simpson et al.); 22nd September to 1st October, trapped 22nd (P. V. Harvey, N. J. Riddiford, W. Simpson et al.); 23rd to 24th September (P. V. Harvey, W. Simpson et al.); 2nd to 7th October, two, 2nd to 5th (P. V. Harvey, W. S. Morton, K. Osborn, N. J. Riddiford et al.). 7th to 14th October, trapped 7th (S. Bellinger, K. Osborn, N. J. Riddiford et al.). Out Skerries, 18th to 27th September, two, 18th to 22nd, one trapped 22nd (P. M. Ellis, Dr C. Mackenzie, J. D. Okill et al.). Whalsay, 23rd to 24th September, another 2nd October (Dr C. Mackenzie). Eshaness, 4th to 7th November (R. Gall et al.). Scousburgh, 14th to 18th November (D. J. Weaver et al.).

**Strathclyde** Portencross, Ayr, 22nd to 26th January (J. L. Burton, B. C. Forrester, R. H. Hogg et al.).

**1982 Shetland** Out Skerries, 6th to 20th October (Brit. Birds 76: 526), should read 6th to 20th September.
1983 Fife Isle of May, 30th September (J. Callion, Mrs W. Mattingley, D. White).

(Northeast Europe and North Asia) A phenomenal year, surpassing quite easily the previous record of 25 in 1976; the number on Fair Isle alone exceeds the national annual total for all but five of the years since 1958. Autumn arrivals fell between 15th September and 14th November. Apart from one in Northumberland, all the September records were in Orkney and (especially) Shetland. October arrivals were more widespread, but two or three November arrivals were again in Shetland. Of the 34 autumn records, 24 were accounted for by Shetland and Scilly: how many were missed in between?

Yellow-breasted Bunting Emberiza aureola (10, 103, 7)
Kent Margate, ♀ or immature, 3rd October (D. C. Gilbert).
Orkney North Ronaldsay, ♀ or immature, 18th September (M. Gray et al.).
Shetland Fair Isle, four ♀♀ or immatures: 8th to 9th September (D. Coates, K. Osborn, N. J. Riddiford et al.); 17th to 22nd September (K. Osborn, N. J. Riddiford et al.) (fig. 5); 22nd to 24th September (N. Bostock, K. Osborn, W. Simpson et al.) (fig. 5); 3rd to 4th October (W. S. Morton, K. Osborn et al.). Quendale, ♀ or immature, 19th September (Sir R. Erskine-Hill).
1980 Shetland Sumburgh, ♀ or immature, 6th September (C. R. Kightley et al.).
1981 Strathclyde Kenney, Tiree, Argyllshire, ♀ or immature, 5th September (L. C. Catlin, K. E. Verrall), previously rejected (Brit. Birds 75: 532), but accepted after further study.
Rare birds in Great Britain in 1984

(Northeast Europe across North Asia) Although there are three pre-1958 Norfolk records, the one at Margate was the first in the extreme southeast of England.

![Female or immature Yellow-breasted Buntings Emberiza aureola, Shetland, September 1984 (from colour painting by W. Simpson)](image)

**Black-headed Bunting Emberiza melanoccephala** (9, 51, 1)
**Shetland** Fair Isle, δ, 4th June (N. J. Riddiford).

(Southeast Europe and Southwest Asia) Another poor year. The five-yearly totals since 1965 are 11, 15, 17 and four, respectively.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak Pheucticus ludovicianus** (1, 14, 0)
(North America) None in 1984, but one at Bull Rock, Co. Cork, on 10th October 1983. Thus, there were three in both Ireland and Britain in 1983, and all six were immature males.

**Bobolink Dolichonyx oryzivorus** (0, 10, 1)
**Devon** Lundy, 23rd to 25th September (S. J. Hayhow, N. Odin et al.).
(North America) The eighth in southwest England, but the first in Devon. A total of 15 American landbirds of 12 species is noted in this report: 1984 was thus significantly inferior to both 1983 (27/16) and 1982 (25/14, plus several pending), but would have been regarded as a good year by earlier standards.
Appendix 1. List of records not accepted

1984

Pied-billed Grebe Kendal, Cumbria, 2nd to 8th November. Black-browed Albatross Padstow, Cornwall, 15th June. **Albatross** Portobello, Lothian, 23rd September. Little Shearwater Hunstanton, Norfolk, four, 5th September. Little Bittern **Radiople, Dorset, 23rd August. Night Heron** Preston, Lancashire, 28th November. Cattle Egret Hest Bank, Lancashire, 8th March. Little Egret **Driffield, Humberside, 29th April; Sandbach, Cheshire, 16th May; Parrett Estuary, Somerset, 21st August. Great White Egret** Horsey Island, Devon, 25th April. *Black Brant* Cattadale, Islay, Strathclyde, 9th February. **Ring-necked Duck** Frodsham, Cheshire, 31st August. *Northern* Eider Holyhead Bay, Gwynedd, 5th February. Surf Scoter Turnberry Point, Strathclyde, 3rd January; Portland, Dorset, 6th January. Black Kite Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, 15th April; Great Hockham, Norfolk, 1st June; Fairmile Bottom, West Sussex, 4th June; Blythburgh, Suffolk, 5th August. **Booted Eagle** Walberswick, Suffolk, 23rd July. Lesser Kestrel Kendal, Cumbria, 7th to 10th December. **Red-footed Falcon** Big Moor, Derbyshire, 5th May; Papa Westray, Orkney, 12th June; Blythburgh, Suffolk, 27th September. **Gyr falcon** Thruso Bay, Highland, 28th January; Eday, Orkney, 22nd February; Glen Esk, Tayside, 18th March. **Little Crane** Wrangle, Lincolnshire, 18th November. **Crane** Roadsea, Cumbria, 7th March; Walberswick, Suffolk, 2nd June; Green Street, Kent, thirty, 20th June; Brechin, Tayside, 2nd October. **Black-winged Stilt** Aberporth, Dyfed, two, 9th August. **Collared Pratincole** Kendal, Cumbria, 27th November. Lesser Golden Plover Hilbre, Merseyside, 30th September; Fife Ness, Fife, 7th October. Semi-palmed Sandpiper Gronant, Clwyd, 14th June. **White-rumped Sandpiper** Minsmere, Suffolk, 25th July; Condor Green, Lancashire, 26th to 27th September. **Baird’s Sandpiper** Titchfield Haven, Hampshire, 7th January; Malitraeth, Gwynedd, 13th May; Crowdy Reservoir, Cornwall, 12th September; Mount’s Bay, Cornwall, 22nd October. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** Aberlady Bay, Lothian, 4th June. **Great Snipe** Meikle Loch, Grampian, 1st May. **Dowitcher** Donna Nook, Lincolnshire, 15th November. **Greater Yellowlegs** Pagham Harbour, West Sussex, 15th September. **Terek Sandpiper** Bonnington Lynn, Strathclyde, 24th September. **Wilson’s Phalarope** Pwllheli, Gwynedd, 20th September. **Laughing Gull** Fairburn Ings, North/West Yorkshire, 26th February; Rhosneigr, Gwynedd, 24th March; Bidston Tip, Merseyside, 1st July; Sandside, Cumbria, 30th August; Rostherne Mere, Cheshire, 9th December. **Franklin’s Gull** Peterhead, Grampian, 24th July; At Sea, Sea area Plymouth, two, 3rd October; Dungeness, Kent, 17th October. **Slender-billed Gull** Tatton Mere, Cheshire, 28th April. **Ring-billed Gull** Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, West Yorkshire, 3rd January; Eling Great Marsh, Hampshire, 9th February; Plymouth, Devon, 23rd February; Poole Park, Dorset, 3rd March; Gunthorpe, Nottinghamshire, 5th March; Plymouth, Devon, 7th March; Slapton, Devon, 1st April; Dunfoot, Strathclyde, 11th April; Fareham Creek, Hampshire, 13th October; Pitsford Reservoir, Northamptonshire, 27th October; Llyn Coron, Gwynedd, 18th November; Farlington, Hampshire, 2nd December; Lincoln, Lincolnshire, 26th December. **California Gull** Kingsbridge, Devon, 5th February. **Gull-billed Tern** Beachy Head, East Sussex, three, 18th May; South Walney, Cumbria, 24th June. **Aleutian Tern** Hilbre, Merseyside, 24th September. **Forster’s Tern** Walberswick, Suffolk, 3rd August; Red Rocks, Merseyside, 28th August. **Brunnich’s Guillemot** Farne Islands, Northumberland, 12th June. **Scops Owl** Kendal, Cumbria, 16th December. **Falkland Swift** Handa Island, Highland, 5th May; Cuckmere Haven, East Sussex, 3rd June. **Alpine Swift** Kentrigg, Cumbria, 26th May; Spraughton, Suffolk, 7th October. **Bee-eater** St Margaret’s Bay, Kent, 1st August; Lamorna, Cornwall, 14th August; Dungeness, Kent, 20th August. **Roller** Westbury, Wiltshire, 30th June. **Black Woodpecker** Ashurst, Hampshire, early July. **Crag Martin** Titesseworth Reservoir, Staffordshire, 10th May. **Red-rumped Swallow** Waltham Abbey, Essex, 5th June; Ditchford Gravel-pits, Northamptonshire, 5th September; Hilbre, Merseyside, two, 1st November. **Red-throated Pipit** Titchwell, Norfolk, 20th May; Corrour, Highland, 10th August. **White-throated Robin** Kendal, Cumbria, 11th November. **Isabelline Wheatear** Coll, Strathclyde, 27th May; King’s Langley, Hertfordshire, two, 16th August. **Black Wheatear** Southwold, Suffolk, 5th to 7th April; Blackwaterfoot, Strathclyde, 11th to 15th June; South Uist, Western Isles, 11th July. **Swainson’s Thrush** Castletown, Man, 17th May. **Red-throated Thrush** Beeston, Nottinghamshire, 29th January. **Black-throated Thrush**
Hunstanton, Norfolk, 2nd May. **River Warbler** Stevenage, Hertfordshire, 5th May. **Paddyfield Warbler** Kendal, Cumbria, 18th to 21st November. **Great Reed Warbler** Folkestone Warren, 18th May. **Arctic Warbler** Tresco, Scilly, 13th October. **Pallas’s Warbler** Salcombe, Devon, 19th November. **Dusky Warbler** Wells, Norfolk, 16th September; St Agnes, Scilly, 23rd October; South Walney, Cumbria, 25th November. **Bonelli’s Warbler** Alresford, Hampshire, 12th September. **Lesser Grey Shrike** Kington area, Hereford & Worcester, 22nd April. **Rose-coloured Starling** St Mary’s, Scilly, 18th October. **Nutcracker** Epsom, Surrey, four, 15th March; West Luccombe, Somerset, 10th August. **Arctic Redpoll** Llyn Cefni, Gwynedd, 16th January; Rattray Head, Grampian, 5th November; Northmert, Hertfordshire, 4th December. **Bonelli’s Warbler** St Mary’s, Scilly, 14th May.

1983

**Little Shearwater** Skomer, Dyfed, 3rd May. **Blue-winged Teal** Northam Burrows, Devon, 13th March; Elaham Tarn, North Yorkshire, 9th to 11th August; Hesketh Out Marsh, Lancashire, shot, 8th or 9th October. **Surf Scoter** Fort William, Highland, 9th, 26th June. **Collared Pratincole** Elmley, Kent, 22nd July. **Red-necked Stint** Cliffe, Kent, 4th September. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** Elmley, Kent, 13th to 14th May. **Great Snipe** Lewes, East Sussex, 17th to 18th December; Rutland Water, Leicestershire, 27th December. **Greater Yellowlegs** Troon, Strathclyde, 13th August. **Spotted Sandpiper** Hayle, Cornwall, 8th September. **Slender-billed Gull** Breydon Water, Norfolk, 9th May. **Ring-billed Gull** Teign Estuary, Devon, 29th & 31st October. **Ross’s Gull** Scarborough, North Yorkshire, 11th February. **Gull-billed Tern** Hound Point, Lothian, 11th September. **Whiskered Tern** Carmel Estuary, Cornwall, 8th to 9th August. **White-winged Black Tern** Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey, 18th August. **Scops Owl** At Sea, Irish Sea, end April. **Alpine Swift** Gosforth, Cumbria, 30th May. **Bee-eater** Murston, Kent, two, 22nd September. **Red-throated Pipit** Hayle, Cornwall, 14th October. **Citrine Wagtail** North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 19th to 21st September. **Siberian Stonechat** Cosmeston Country Park, South Glamorgan, 6th October; Burnham Norton, Norfolk, 27th November. **Siberian Thrush** Ebrington, Gloucestershire, 14th November. **Greenish Warbler** Coquet Island, Northumberland, 31st August; Margate, Kent, 26th October. **Bonelli’s Warbler** St Mary’s, Scilly, 14th May. **Nutcracker** Whalley, Lancashire, at least eight, 2nd October; South Witham, Lincolnshire, 28th October. **Parrot Crossbill** Lindley Wood Reservoir area, North Yorkshire, two, 10th May. **Little Bunting** Bempton Cliffs, Humberside, 17th April; Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, 27th December.

1982

**White-billed Diver** Burghhead Bay, Grampian, 7th March; 30th October; Lossiemouth, Grampian, 24th November. **Cory’s Shearwater** Spurn, Humberside, 18th August. **Semipalated Sandpiper** Weaver Bend, Cheshire, 3rd to 4th October. **Red-necked Stint** Fair Isle, Shetland, 11th to 13th August. **White-rumped Swift** Portland & Lodmoor, Dorset, 8th May. **Olivaceous Warbler** St Agnes, Scilly, 29th September. **Greenish Warbler** St Mary’s, Scilly, 7th to 9th November.

1981

**Pallid Swift** Lodmoor, Dorset, 23rd June. **Citrine Wagtail** St Mary’s, Scilly, 23rd October.

1980

**Swainson’s Thrush** Lundy, Devon, 14th April.

1979

**Ring-billed Gull** Flamborough Head, Humberside, 5th August. ‘**Kumlien’s Gull**’ Belvide Reservoir, Staffordshire, 4th November.

1978

**Lesser Yellowlegs** Beddington Sewage-works, Greater London, 17th August. **Pallid Swift** St Agnes, Scilly, 8th October. **Fan-tailed Warbler** Marazion, Cornwall, 16th May.
1976
**Magnificent Frigatebird** Dungeness, Kent, 15th September.

1962
**Parrot Crossbill** Tetney Lock, Lincolnshire, 13th October.

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